

aisle in thanking Director Sullivan for his outstanding service to our Nation.

#### REMEMBERING CARDISS COLLINS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I want to pay tribute to an exceptional, Illinoisan who passed away this weekend.

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins served my State and the city of Chicago with distinction for more than two decades, and I was honored to have served with her in the House.

Representative Collins did not plan for a political life. She was an accountant and a mother. But when her husband, Congressman George Collins, died in a plane crash, Cardiss was convinced to run in a special election to succeed him. And she won, becoming the first African American woman elected to Congress from Illinois.

When she arrived in Washington, she learned the job quickly and became a leader on a variety of issues—from women's rights, to children's rights, to healthcare. Her colleagues quickly recognized her leadership qualities. After just a few terms, they elected her chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus. She also soon became the first African American woman to be elected Democratic Majority Whip At-Large.

I am glad that I had the chance to get to know Cardiss Collins. I—and countless Illinoisans—will remember her fighting spirit, her conviction in what was right and, of course, her sense of humor.

In 1993, a newly elected Illinois Senator by the name of Carol Moseley-Braun had decided—along with Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI—to do something no woman had ever done on the Senate floor: wear pants, instead of a dress or skirt. At the time, women were actually prohibited by the Senate rules from wearing trousers. And these Senators' decision ruffled a few feathers around here.

Well, this didn't sit right with Congresswoman Collins, and she had something to say about it. What she said was, "They shouldn't be concerned about the dress code, unless the men Senators start wearing dresses."

Soon after, the Senate amended its rules.

Congresswoman Collins played a part in tearing down that barrier, just as she did for so many other barriers and inequalities for women and minorities across the country. That is the kind of person she was: a fighter.

I will close by simply acknowledging for all the good she did, both here in Congress and back home in Chicago, fighting the good fight. Congresswoman Cardiss Collins will be missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM MOLINARI

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of one of the Senate's most dedicated, loyal and capable employees, James J. Molinari.

Jim has served as my State director for more than a decade, but his public service began many years ago.

In 1967, Jim began his 45-year career in public service when he became a patrol officer with the San Francisco Police Department.

For 27 years he rose through the ranks of the police department, and he did it all. From street patrol to investigations, undercover assignment to a Federal liaison, Jim was given the responsibilities.

From 1977 through 1986, during my tenure as mayor of San Francisco, Jim was a senior staff member in the mayor's office. He was responsible for security for both the mayor and visiting dignitaries, and he served as my advisor on law enforcement matters.

Jim was at my side for many of the most significant moments of my service as mayor.

We hosted two Super Bowl parades in 1982 and 1985, the 1984 Democratic National Convention, and even visits by the Pope and the Queen of England.

I still remember those days, and I am happy that Jim was there to share them with me.

In 1992 he became a captain and commanding officer of the Planning and Research Division.

I have no doubt that Jim would have kept climbing the ladder in the Police Department, but in 1994 I helped convince him that his talents were suitable for a larger stage and that he would make a fine U.S. Marshal.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton appointed Jim the United States Marshal for the Northern District of California.

Jim served as a Marshal for 7 years, during which time he was responsible for the administration of Federal law enforcement for 15 northern California counties, or about 12 million people.

He oversaw a \$35 million budget and had a staff of about 130.

In 2001, Jim decided to focus his experience on counternarcotics and became director of the San Francisco Bay Area High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. As executive director, he oversaw coordination and implementation of the agency's programs and initiatives.

In 2002, I convinced Jim to return to my office as State director.

As State director, Jim advises around 30 employees and oversees operations in my four State offices, in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Fresno.

It is an understatement for me to call Jim one of my most trusted public policy and legislative advisors.

I don't know if it's his roots as a police officer or his Italian sensibilities, but Jim is practical, he cuts through the red tape and he calls it how he sees it.

Jim is a real 10.

Mr. President, I ask that you and all of our colleagues join in thanking Jim Molinari for his years of service, not only to the Senate but to the State of California and the Nation.

We wish him a wonderful retirement and want him to know we all appreciate his service and friendship.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, for more than 150 years, leaders from President Abraham Lincoln to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have challenged us to keep faith with the true spirit of our Constitution. Today we continue the work of these two dynamic men who courageously led the charge—during times of national division and civil strife—in pursuing a more perfect union where all Americans are truly free and have equal access to opportunity.

As we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the historical and everyday contributions of African-Americans to the State of Colorado and to our country. Their efforts to ensure equality for all Americans are tightly woven into the fabric of our ever-evolving Nation.

Last month, millions of Americans and I watched as President Barack Obama took the oath for his second Presidential term. And for the first time in our Nation's history, there are two African-American U.S. Senators serving at the same time—Senators TIM SCOTT of South Carolina and MO COWAN of Massachusetts. Following the 2012 elections, Colorado celebrated a record number of African-American lawmakers in the Colorado House of Representatives, known as the "historic five" who are paving the way for more diversity. I also am proud of how our State set the precedent for the country 4 years ago, when two African-American lawmakers, Rep. Terrance Carroll and Senator Peter Groff, held the top leadership roles in the Colorado General Assembly. These public servants were role models and leaders on so many important issues—one of which was pushing hard to create educational opportunities for all Coloradans.

Creating opportunity through education is critical, and as we work to close achievement and economic opportunity gaps throughout our State and country, I would like to pay homage to two of Colorado's African-American pioneers who have worked tirelessly to guarantee equal access to quality education for all Coloradans.

Omar D. Blair, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen in the 1940s, served as the first African-American president of the Denver Board of Education and went on to become the first African-American president of the Colorado Association of School Boards. During his tenure as president of the Denver Board of Education, Blair championed quality education and led the city through the controversial desegregation of its public schools.

Rachel B. Noel, known as the lion of the African-American civil rights movement in Denver, became the first African-American elected to the Denver Board of Education and was also

the first African-American woman elected to office in Colorado. On April 25, 1968, Noel spearheaded a resolution to integrate Denver's public schools. Despite the school board's decision to overturn the resolution in 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed Noel's historic resolution in its 1973 decision, *Keyes v. Denver Public Schools No. 1*.

These exceptional Coloradans changed the way we educate our youth and supported access to opportunity for all. But while we have seen progress, there is still much work to do.

In this rapidly changing world where we increasingly rely on technology, we must provide our youth with the math and science skills they need to become leaders and keep our Nation on the cutting edge of innovation and ingenuity. That is why I stand with President Obama and Gov. Hickenlooper in supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, education programs to provide our youth with viable pathways to academic and professional success. With a strong investment in STEM programs, and by ensuring Colorado's students continue to have access to language and arts education, we will give our students the tools they need to be successful in the 21st century.

From Colorado's earliest days as a western territory to the present, African-American community leaders and public servants have been a driving force in transforming the works and vision of our Founding Fathers into reality. I am humbled and inspired by their commitment to pushing our country to reach its fullest potential. I will continue to do my part to honor African-Americans' legacy of triumph over challenge. I hope you will join me in doing the same.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, please let the record show that I was in Minot, ND, on January 29, 2013, to speak at the funeral and honor the life of Chester Reiten when the confirmation vote on Senator John Kerry to be Secretary of State was held. Chester Reiten was a dedicated public servant who devoted a considerable amount of his time and energy to serving his community and State. His efforts included lengthy tenures as a State senator and mayor of Minot.

#### TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FMLA

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the enactment of The Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA. For 20 years, this historic law has helped individuals balance their family and work obligations. As a husband, and the father of three daughters, the flexibility to care for your family and children without the fear of losing your job is invaluable.

The passage of the FMLA represented a broad, bipartisan Congressional effort to improve working conditions for American families. Since the FMLA was signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, workers have used it more than 100 million times to take job-protected leave. Under the FMLA, an employee may take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child or placement of a foster child. An employee can also use the FMLA to care for a spouse, child or parent suffering from a serious health condition.

At the core of the FMLA is the concept of flexibility. And that idea—not just flexibility in taking leave, but flexibility across the board, in all facets of the workplace experience—is something we must strive for in today's office environment. We must allow our workers to be productive and commit themselves to their jobs, while also allowing them to be great parents.

In my home State of Colorado, we have expanded the benefits under the FMLA by adopting two additional State leave policies—Domestic Abuse Leave and Colorado Small Necessities Leave. Under Domestic Abuse Leave, employees who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault may take leave in order to seek various medical and legal services. Colorado Small Necessities Leave allows workers to take 18 hours of unpaid annual leave each school year in order to participate in their children's school activities, including attending parent/teacher conferences.

Despite the vast improvements in practices since the enactment of the FMLA, our country still has a ways to go. Most part-time workers and nearly half of full-time workers are not eligible for leave under FMLA. And millions of employees who are eligible cannot afford to take unpaid leave. With this in mind, this law must not be considered an end, but instead a first step in the right direction—there is room for improvement. For example, we should consider expanding the definition of a family to include members of the LGBT community.

But it is a worthwhile start, and so again, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the FMLA. I hope we can use the upcoming session of Congress to look for ways to strengthen this important law.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO VINNIE BAIOCCHETTI

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate chief of police Vinnie Baiocchetti of the Belmont, NH, Police Department for his 37 years of dedicated service to the fire-fighting and law enforcement professions, the town of Belmont, and the State of New Hampshire.

Beginning his public safety career as a firefighter and emergency medical

technician in 1976, Vinnie then joined the Laconia, NH, Police Department in 1983 as a part-time police officer, became a full-time officer for the Gilmanton, NH, Police Department in 1984, and was promoted to sergeant in that agency in 1991. He joined the Belmont, NH, Police Department in 2001, where he was promoted to sergeant in 2002, and appointed chief of police in 2003.

During his long career as a public safety professional, Chief Baiocchetti continued to serve with the Laconia NH, Fire Department as a call firefighter and fire investigator. Chief Baiocchetti has been a leader in promoting community-oriented policing, improving public safety within the State of New Hampshire, and promoting sound public policies and practices, which have helped keep New Hampshire one of the safest States in the Nation. Chief Baiocchetti has worked tirelessly with his peers and with other public safety officials to better the administration of justice and to train members of New Hampshire's police and fire communities. He has focused on mentoring young people interested in the law enforcement profession through Law Enforcement Exploring. Chief Baiocchetti served as an adviser, assistant commander, and commander of the New Hampshire Police Cadet Training Academy during his more than 25 years of work with this unique and nationally emulated summer program for teenagers.

As Chief Baiocchetti celebrates his retirement, I want to commend him on a job well done and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him, his wife Tammy, and daughter Ashley, well in all future endeavors.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ELAINE BALSLEY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Elaine Balsley, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past few months.

Elaine is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Black Hills State University where she is majoring in mass communications. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Elaine for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

##### REMEMBERING RICHARD WALTON

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Rhode Island is mourning the loss of one of our most renowned and accomplished citizens. Richard Walton was an activist, a teacher, a journalist, and a force for good in our State, in our Nation, and indeed in the world.

It would take most of us many lifetimes to achieve as much and to touch as many as Richard did in his 84 years.