

a. Do you disagree with GAO or that a biometric exit system must be implemented to ensure real border security?

b. Do you acknowledge that federal law requires DHS to implement a biometric entry-exit system?

c. If confirmed, will you commit to implementing this system within one year?

We appreciate your pledge of “transparency and candor with Congress,” and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

CHUCK GRASSLEY.
JEFF SESSIONS.
MICHAEL S. LEE.
ORRIN HATCH.
JOHN CORNYN.
TED CRUZ.

REMEMBERING ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to observe the birthday of one of the greatest Americans to grace these Chambers—Cornelius Calvin Sale Jr., better known to us—and to history—as Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia.

Robert C. Byrd was born Cornelius Calvin Sale Jr. in North Wilkesboro, NC. He was 10 months old when his mother died from flu, and he was adopted by his aunt and uncle, Titus and Vlurma Byrd. They changed his name to Robert Carlyle Byrd and raised him in the coal-mining Appalachian region of West Virginia.

And in the 150 years of West Virginia’s history, our State has had no greater advocate than Robert C. Byrd. Many in the Senate today served with Robert C. Byrd, and they can bear witness to the fact that the Senate, like the State of West Virginia, also had no greater advocate than Robert C. Byrd. Today would have been the Senator’s 96th birthday, and every day since his passing in 2010, the people of West Virginia feel the loss of this great man.

The Senate also feels his loss because no one knew the Senate—its history, its traditions, its precedents—better than Robert C. Byrd.

He made it a point to meet with every new Senator and to impress upon them the fact that they were to be caretakers of this institution—an institution he regarded as both the morning star and the evening star of the American constitutional constellation. He also impressed upon them that they did not serve “under” any president, but that as a separate but equal branch of the government, they served “with” presidents, acting as a check on the executive’s power. When he passed away, he was the longest serving member of Congress in our Nation’s history and, as such, served with 11 Presidents.

In his long life, Robert C. Byrd had three great loves—his wife “fair” Erma, as he called her; the State of West Virginia; and the United States Senate. But he also had a great passion for the document from which the Senate and this great country sprang—the U.S. Constitution. I have always thought that is why he kept a copy of the Constitution in his coat pocket—it was easy to reach for quick reference, but in his coat pocket, it also was close

to his heart. Even though he could recite most of it by memory, he consulted his dog-eared copy of the Constitution often and without hesitation. In its words, he often said, he always found wisdom, truth and excitement—the same excitement he felt as a boy in Wolf Creek Hollow, WV, reading by kerosene lamp about the heroes of the American Revolution and the birth of our Nation. And those words guided him every day of the 58 years he spent in Washington as a member of Congress and as a Senator.

Robert C. Byrd cast more than 18,500 votes in the Senate—a record that will never be equaled. Whether he voted with others or against them, it was never hard ideology with Robert C. Byrd. He had no use for narrow partisanship that trades on attack and values only victory.

Any time Robert C. Byrd spoke, the Senate came to a halt and Senators on both sides of the aisle leaned forward—to listen and to learn.

He ran for public office 15 times—and he never lost. He was first elected to the West Virginia legislature in 1946 and then was elected to three consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives before his election to the Senate. He was a keen observer of politics—he advised more than one Presidential candidate to go to West Virginia, “get a little coal dust” on their hands and “live in spirit with the working people.”

He was deeply proud of West Virginia and its people. He proudly defended his work to invest Federal dollars in his State.

He breathed new life into many communities with funding for highways, hospitals, universities, research institutes, scholarships and housing—giving West Virginians the opportunities he himself never had.

Robert C. Byrd’s journey was, in many ways, America’s journey. He came of age in an America segregated by race, which he eventually said was one of our country’s greatest mistakes. And, as did America itself, he repented and made amends.

The moments that define the lives of most men are few. Not so with Robert C. Byrd. He devoted his life to his beloved Erma and his family and to public service. He was a major figure in the great panorama of American history for more than half a century. His devotion to the Senate and his colleagues was unequalled. His mastery of Senate rules and parliamentary procedures was legendary. And his contributions to West Virginia and to this Nation were monumental. He was a true giant of the Senate. He is as much a part of this Chamber as these 100 historic desks, these galleries, and these busts of Senate presidents.

Robert C. Byrd revered the Senate and the Senate revered Robert C. Byrd. It is for this reason that I wish to observe the anniversary of the birth of a great West Virginian and great American—Robert Carlyle Byrd.

May God bless his memory and his great spirit.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I regret having missed two votes on November 18, 2013. The two votes that I missed are as follows: motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert L. Wilkins to be a U.S. circuit judge for the DC Circuit and motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1197, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both motions to invoke cloture.

LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, with the Thanksgiving holiday, November is a time for many of us to enjoy time with our loved ones and reflect on our futures together. With so many family gatherings, many retirement experts also encourage us to use this time to talk with family about our long-term needs.

In addition to thinking about financial needs for retirement, it is important to also address our health as we age. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, an individual turning 65 today has almost a 70 percent chance of needing long-term care in the future, and 1 in 5 will need long-term care for more than 5 years. Conversations about long-term care and advance care planning can be understandably difficult, but they are necessary to ensure our loved ones receive the care they want if they are no longer able to speak for themselves.

Thinking about long-term care means recognizing the invaluable—but too often unrecognized—contributions made daily by family caregivers. Over 65 million Americans provide \$450 billion worth of unpaid care every year, twice as much as homecare and nursing home services combined, and these numbers are increasing. More than one-half of family caregivers perform intensive activities such as bathing, feeding, and medication management. However, these services often come with a cost to the caregiver, such as financial burdens and a toll on physical and mental health.

As the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, I want to help middle-class families struggling to provide necessary care for their loved ones. This year, the committee has examined the importance of advance care planning as well as why a majority of Americans have done little to no planning for future long-term care needs. Next month, we will continue this series of hearings by looking at expert recommendations for reforming our long-term care system. Lastly, Senator BALDWIN and I penned a column in recognition of the critical need to address the long-term care inadequacies in this country, and I ask unanimous consent that a copy be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.