

## HONORING MAYOR TOM MENINO

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of the great leaders in the history of Boston. It might seem odd to describe a man who is still with us today, alive and well, as a figure in history, but in the almost 400 years since Boston was founded, a history that is filled with names known across this country—Winthrop, Adams, Lowell, Lodge—in this 400-year history, few have done more for Boston than our mayor Tom Menino.

Looking back at his 20 years in office, it is clear how much Tom Menino has done for our city. Mayor Menino revitalized Boston. From the waterfront and Innovation District to Dudley Square and Roxbury, Mayor Menino led the resurgence of our neighborhoods, expanded parks and livable spaces, and created a city whose innovative potential is unbounded.

Mayor Menino worked for Boston. With firm convictions, he cautioned against predatory lenders, starting the “Don’t Borrow Trouble” campaign long before the great recession. With political will and courage, he improved education for all our kids, creating full-day kindergarten and making Boston schools some of the best in the country. With foresight of the next frontiers, he fought for hospitals and scientific research, giving Boston the world’s leading health care institutions. With fierce moral clarity, he stood firmly for equality—equal opportunity for immigrants, equal rights and equal marriage for the LGBT community, equal pay for women.

Perhaps most importantly, Mayor Menino has been there for Boston. It is often said that more than 50 percent of Boston residents have met Mayor Menino personally. I do not believe this is true. I believe the number must be much greater. It seems as if the mayor attends every community event, every potluck dinner, every school play, and every soccer game. From Grove Hall to the North End, Bowdoin to West Roxbury, we know Mayor Menino will be there for us in our moments of greatest triumph—ribbon cuttings for new buildings and parks, World Series victories, a new Bostonian’s citizenship, a child’s graduation—and we know he will be there for us in our moments of great tragedy—the death of a loved one, terror in Copley Square.

Of course, Mayor Menino could not have done it alone. By his side for all these years he has had Angela Menino. Angela is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. To all of us in Boston, she was not just a first lady but a first friend. Angela championed causes that often went unheralded in the press, supporting women and children, employment and education, and fighting to end homelessness. Today we thank Angela as well for helping make our city into a warm and thriving community.

Almost 400 years ago, on a ship sailing from England to the New World, John Winthrop declared that the new

city they would found, Boston, would be a “city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us.” And if that experiment, our city, was to succeed, he said “we must be knit together . . . we must entertain each other in brotherly affection . . . we must rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body.”

For 20 years Mayor Menino has made Boston into a city that all eyes can see is a model for the country and for the world. He has succeeded because he knew all along that our fortunes depend on our work together—as one people, as one community, as one Boston.

On behalf of a grateful people, Tom Menino, we thank you for your hard work, for your service, and most of all for your dedication to making Boston a better place.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## TRIBUTE TO LAURA HERZOG

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an outstanding member of our staff, a friend, and a very special person who will soon leave the Senate—after almost 11 years of service—with her family to go to Nashville to begin the next exciting phase of their lives.

I first met Laura Lefler when she was a staffer working in Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER’s front office answering the phones and greeting visitors. I was in Washington to try to decide, like the Presiding Officer, whether running for the U.S. Senate was something I should consider. Seeing her smiling face and listening to her Tennessee accent certainly made me feel at home.

Later, after I decided to run, we became involved in one of the most difficult races in the country in 2006. I was the only new Republican to make it through. Toward the end, with the race nationalized and dealing with all kinds of issues, a whole crew of folks descended upon our office to help us get across the top. One of those was young Laura Lefler, who helped us in our communications office. I think she was surprised by the fierceness of a campaign such as this. She took it all very personally—a sign of someone you want to be at your side.

Then came the transition. Laura was the first person to open our office, and she helped us interview people and find our way through the daunting task of opening a new Senate office. When it came down to deciding who would lead our communications office, we had gotten down to people who had been here

and done it for a long time and Ms. Laura Lefler. She always said I was concerned about whether she should really be the person, and, in fairness, now that she is leaving, I will say I was. She was young. She had never done this before. Certainly I had never done this before. And I wondered whether we needed someone who was more seasoned and had different experiences. Without question, hiring Laura to lead our communications office is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. I cannot imagine the last 7 years without Laura in our office, and I know the rest of our staff feels the same way.

Laura has been instrumental to our office in every way. No doubt, she has done an outstanding job as a communications director. I think every person in our office, those in other offices, and the media people throughout the Capitol and throughout Tennessee would all speak to the fact that she has been a professional, she has been endearing and a responsible communications director.

She has also been instrumental in other ways, such as always ensuring that I have never forgotten where I came from. She has that knack when we are making a decision over a tough vote to slip in toward the end and sit down privately and express her own feelings—something I value greatly.

As time went on, I realized something was different about other Senate offices. Most Senate offices center around the U.S. Senator. Our office has never been that way; it has always revolved around Laura.

It began with this guy named John Herzog, whom she later married. Was he going to end up having the kind of job that would allow him to know he could support a family? And then when he did, was he going to ask her to marry him? This went on for months and months.

Then there was the wedding after he asked. I do not think I have ever seen so many photographs of dresses and flower arrangements, nor have others in our office.

Then came the decision about their home purchase. Where would it be? What would it look like? How far of a drive would it be? You know the drill.

Then came young Jack. His hair was so perfect when he was born, he instantly was dubbed “the Weatherman.” Then, of course, which daycare would he attend? Would it be close enough? Would she continue to be a communications director and a good mom? As we all knew would be the case, she has been exceptional at both.

Then more of the same in Tennessee. I remember a townhall meeting in Loudon, TN, where over 1,000 people showed up at the gymnasium—a place where Laura Lefler had been the valdicatorian. I remember walking in with such excitement that so many people would be there at this townhall meeting to hear me discuss the big issues facing our Nation, but, not surprisingly, the first thing that was said