

will strongly support the legislation we are putting forward tonight and the broader bill that will come to the floor we hope after the first of the year, because after the first of the year we will have a chance to take up this issue, not only these four provisions if they aren't passed over the next couple of days but a broader bill that will be broadly supported by Republicans and Democrats alike that will help our country become more energy efficient.

I yield back the remainder of my time and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WALSH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

CARL LEVIN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on first glance, one might not think that Michigan and Vermont share much in common. But to delve deeper is to see that both States have deep roots in their rural populations, strong agricultural bases, and stunning natural landscapes. Senator CARL LEVIN has represented the people of Michigan in the U.S. Senate since 1979. He is one of this Chamber's most senior Members and one of the longest serving Senators in history. He has cast more than 12,500 votes on behalf of his constituents.

Senator LEVIN has worked to ensure that the lakes of Michigan will be clean and safe for generations of Michigan residents to come. He has sponsored legislation to protect and restore the Great Lakes and their abundant wildlife habitats and secured millions to bring Michigan's lakes back to their natural pristine glory, and he has supported the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which has supported the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, and international waterways.

As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator LEVIN has been a powerful force in crafting our Nation's defense policy, particularly in the post-9/11 era. The battlefield has been vast, and his support of our troops has never wavered. He has consistently worked to ensure that the brave men and women serving in uniform have the support they need to keep our Nation and our allies safe. He

and I shared reservations about launching a war in Iraq, reservations that have proven sound.

I was particularly moved by Senator LEVIN's strong support—and steadfast leadership—in advancing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act. That measure ultimately became law in 2009, in large part to Senator LEVIN's commitment to ensuring its inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act. This Federal hate crimes law took years to achieve. At a time when it may have been easier to push a final vote down the road, Senator LEVIN worked with me to ensure that it was considered by the Senate and then upheld through a conference committee. This alone would be a remarkable achievement, but Senator LEVIN's Senate career boasts many achievements.

I have also been honored to work with Senator LEVIN to reaffirm our Nation's commitments to those citizens of the world who, persecuted, oppressed and stateless, look to our country for protection. He has been a voice on behalf of displaced Iraqis and Syrians, and a dependable cosponsor of my Refugee Protection Act.

From protecting America's waters to crafting America's actions abroad, Senator LEVIN has been a powerful and invaluable presence in the Senate. He heads now into retirement, where I know he and Barbara will enjoy spending time with their three wonderful daughters and beautiful grandchildren. Marcelle and I wish him and Barbara the very best in this new chapter. I will miss him.

TOM HARKIN

Madam President, Senator TOM HARKIN and I came to Washington in the same year—TOM, to the House of Representatives, and I, to the Senate. For nearly 40 years, he has represented Iowans with the even temper and strong commitment that has become a hallmark of his tenure.

Senator HARKIN has been a leading defender of rights for persons with disabilities, anchored by the landmark law he authored, the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inspired by the challenges faced by his own deaf brother, HARKIN led a crusade to enact this historic legislation, ensuring that individuals living with disabilities could not be discriminated against because of those disabilities. The ongoing effort to protect and support Americans—and people around the world—living with disabilities, has become a cornerstone of Senator HARKIN's career.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, HELP, Senator HARKIN has helped create a new model of health care, one focused on prevention and health rather than reaction and sickness. He was one of the leaders in crafting the Affordable Care Act, giving millions of Americans better access to health care. He has continually fought for the missions of and the funding for the Centers for Disease Control,

the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration.

I have worked with Senator HARKIN on a number of matters, from international human rights to critical funding for breast cancer research. Senator HARKIN and I have worked together in our shared commitment to America's farmers and farming, an industry that it so critical to both our States. Together we have worked to increase conservation funding, promote water quality, and protect the environment while supporting our family farmers.

TOM HARKIN is a lifelong Iowan. He and his wife Ruth have given decades in public service representing the people of Iowa. I want to congratulate him on an accomplished career and wish him, Ruth, their wonderful children and grandchild all the very best.

JAY ROCKEFELLER

Madam President, for nearly 30 years, West Virginians have elected JAY ROCKEFELLER to represent them in the U.S. Senate. When he retires in January, he will leave a record of tireless service on behalf of West Virginians and all Americans.

Senator ROCKEFELLER ranks among the champions of affordable health care. He coauthored the Child Health Insurance Program, CHIP, a program I have also been proud to support, which provides health care coverage to more than 6 million children each year, who would otherwise be uninsured. A former chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he authored legislation to improve care for our Nation's heroes. He was instrumental in the creation of a commission on long-term care to look for solutions to a lack of essential long-term medical support for millions of Americans. With Ted Kennedy, he led the charge for health care reform in the Senate in the 1990s. The list of achievements goes on.

For nearly 50 years, Senator ROCKEFELLER has served the people of West Virginia as a State representative, a secretary of state, a college president, a Governor, and, for the last 30 years, as a U.S. Senator. He is a dear and valued friend. I wish JAY and his wife Sharon the very best as he retires from the Senate.

TIM JOHNSON

Madam President, the senior Senator from South Dakota, TIM JOHNSON, is as fine a public servant as I have known. These are words I have used before about Senator JOHNSON. As he approaches his retirement from the Senate, they are as true now as ever before.

Senator JOHNSON embodies the traits of a dedicated public servant. He represents South Dakotans with every fiber of his being. He is the great-grandson of a homesteader who settled in South Dakota when it was still a territory. And he has never lost sight of the interests of the constituents he has served in Congress for more than 25 years. Never one to rest on the job, he introduced more legislation in his freshman term than any of the almost 60 new Members of Congress that term.

Vermont and South Dakota share similar rural challenges, and in Senator JOHNSON, I have found a partner in such efforts as protecting rural schools and giving them a voice in national competitions like Race to the Top. He and I share a strong commitment to supporting small family farms, an effort he has been recognized for by the National Farmers Union and others. Through the Appropriations Committee, Senator JOHNSON has been a stalwart defender of our Nation's veterans, and through his chairmanship of the banking committee, he has fought for middle-class families with steadfast diligence.

Senator JOHNSON has faced no shortage of challenges in his life. But with his wife Barbara by his side, he has met all of these challenges with determination and with grace, and he remains a fierce defender of South Dakota and a friend. As he retires from the Senate, I wish him, Barbara, his children and grandchildren and his entire family all of our best wishes.

MARY LANDRIEU

Madam President, for nearly 20 years, Louisianans have had no greater advocate, and no stronger voice, than that of MARY LANDRIEU. She has been a crusader for her State, and even today continues to fight to build on Louisiana's recovery from the devastating storms of 2005 that wreaked havoc across Louisiana and throughout the city of New Orleans.

It was in 2005 that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the gulf coast, devastating New Orleans. Then in 2010 the Deepwater Horizon oil spill sent millions of barrels of oil into the gulf, coating Louisiana's beaches and wildlife. During these terrible times Louisiana could have had no better advocate than Senator LANDRIEU. After Katrina, Senator LANDRIEU secured more than \$120 billion in recovery money to help restore New Orleans and Louisiana's coast. After the Deepwater Horizon spill, Senator LANDRIEU worked tirelessly with both Democratic and Republican colleagues to move the RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act through the Senate. Her leadership secured essential reparations from British Petroleum to restore the battered gulf coast.

In 2009, Senator LANDRIEU and former Senator Olympia Snowe made history as the first two female lawmakers to lead a full congressional committee—the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship—as chair and ranking member. Senator LANDRIEU is also the first female Senator to chair the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

She has been an active member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I have appreciated her willingness to work with me on so many issues in her capacity as the chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee. When Vermont was devastated by Hurricane Irene, Senator LANDRIEU was a key ally in helping me secure needed resources

to help rebuild roads, bridges, businesses, and communities in Vermont. I thank her for that, Vermonters thank her, and I will never forget her invaluable work and support.

Louisiana has been well represented by Senator LANDRIEU. She has been a steadfast and stalwart defender of her State's priorities and needs. I wish her, her husband Frank, and their entire family the very best.

MARK PRYOR

Madam President, since 2002, Senator MARK PRYOR has been a dedicated representative in the U.S. Senate for the people of Arkansas. Throughout his career he has carried on a strong family tradition of service. I worked alongside his father, Senator David Pryor, for nearly 20 years. Both father and son are two of the finest public servants I have known. Their conscientiousness and their decency are but two of the many distinguishing features of their work in this body.

Throughout his tenure here, MARK PRYOR has been a fierce defender of and advocate for rural communities, a commitment both he and I share. He has promoted expansion of rural broadband infrastructure to ensure that families, farmers, businesses, and students in even the most rural communities in Arkansas, in Vermont, and across the Nation have access to the World Wide Web. As the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, he has been a partner of mine in working to ensure that farms small and large have the resources and support to maintain and contribute to the rich agricultural history of the Nation. We have also worked together to advance key conservation programs to help protect farmlands across the country.

I have also greatly admired Senator PRYOR's commitment to the National Guard. As cochair of the Senate National Guard caucus I have seen how active and effective he has been as a caucus member and as a valued ally in our bipartisan efforts to protect, defend, and bolster resources for the men and women of the National Guard.

In the day-to-day work of the Senate, I will miss Senator PRYOR's insight, his evenhandedness, and his friendship. He has been a passionate voice in the Senate for the people of Arkansas. I wish him and the entire Pryor family all best wishes in the years ahead.

MARK UDALL

Madam President, for nearly 20 years in Congress, MARK UDALL has represented the people of Colorado with commitment and courage. He is a dedicated public servant, whose drive and responsibility to the people of Colorado will not wane with his retirement.

An experienced mountaineer and proud environmentalist, Senator UDALL has spent weekends exploring and enjoying the great outdoors, and his weekdays protecting them. He has authored legislation to create wildlife refuges and preserve wilderness in Colorado. He is also a leader in renewable

energy, helping his home State adopt a renewable electricity standard and working to bring a similar innovation to the national stage.

Senator UDALL has worked hard to bridge the partisan divide during a period of unprecedented polarization. Many of the bills he has authored have enjoyed wide bipartisan support, including proposals to reauthorize NASA and to protect public lands. He was one of the Senate's newest Members when he successfully called on Republicans and Democrats to sit together in a show of national unity at the 2011 State of the Union, following the tragic shootings in Tucson, AZ.

Senator UDALL has been a tireless advocate for the protection of civil liberties. His work on the Senate Intelligence Committee has been focused on protecting the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans, a commitment that I strongly share. His departure will be a loss to the work of the Intelligence Committee.

MARK UDALL comes from a family with an uncommon history of public service. Though Senator UDALL is retiring from the Senate, I know this service will continue. I wish him, his wife Maggie, their children and their entire family all best wishes as they begin their next chapter.

KAY HAGAN

Madam President, back when I was in law school, I tried to get an internship here on Capitol Hill, with no luck. Senator KAY HAGAN has a different story. She first walked these Halls as an intern in the 1970s.

Her tenure here in the Senate has been too short, but she has represented her constituents in North Carolina with vigor and dedication. She has been a tireless advocate for women and children and was a key ally in my efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act in 2013. I have long felt that she has placed conscience above politics. She has shown a willingness to take tough votes on difficult issues, from LGBT rights to gun safety.

Senator HAGAN comes from a strong military family. North Carolina has one of the highest per capita enlistment rates in the country, and Senator HAGAN has understood that behind every officer, behind every enlisted member of the military, is a family that needs our appreciation and support. She was an active partner in our efforts to strengthen the National Guard, and she authored such important legislative initiatives as the Hire a Hero Act.

After decades of public service, I know that North Carolina can expect more service from Senator HAGAN. I wish her, her husband Chip and their wonderful daughters the best.

MARK BEGICH

Madam President, Senator MARK BEGICH comes from a long line of public servants. In his 6 years in the U.S. Senate, he has been a strong advocate for the people of Alaska. Senator BEGICH has worked tirelessly to promote Alaska's economy and business. During his

Senate tenure, he has been a partner on such issues as voter protection, the USA PATRIOT Act and FISA reform, and empowering the National Guard.

Alaska has more veterans per capita than any other State. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator BEGICH has fought to improve veterans access to care, increase funding for the VA, and for research to better understand mental illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, and traumatic brain injury, TBI. These are priorities I share as well. He has also worked through the commerce committee to ensure that Alaska's many fisheries and their booming industry remain sustainable. His commitment to his constituents similarly extended to his work on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, where he fought to protect native voters from discrimination and to ensure that laws reflect and respect their needs and traditions.

I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Senator BEGICH on some of the unique challenges that face rural states like Vermont and Alaska. Senator BEGICH has consistently worked to improve rural schools through legislation such as his Investing in Innovation for Education Act, which I was pleased to cosponsor and which would have given 25 percent of its grants to rural schools. Senator BEGICH has supported legislation to facilitate rural Alaskans' access to quality health care. And he has supported measures to address the high heating costs facing our northern constituents.

He is a man with an unflinching optimistic outlook on life. I wish Senator BEGICH, his wife Deborah, their young son Jacob, and his entire family best wishes.

JOHN WALSH

Madam President, Senator JOHN WALSH has served but a brief time in the Senate, but he came to this body with a long history of public service. A decorated veteran, he enlisted in the Montana National Guard in 1979, and he rose through the ranks, ultimately being selected as Montana's adjutant general. He is the first veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to serve as a Senator, and during his tour of duty, he earned the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and the combat infantry badge.

As a Senator, JOHN WALSH has been a strong advocate of mental health care for veterans, preserving native languages, and bringing outsourced jobs back to the United States. As cochair of the Senate National Guard Caucus, I recognize and greatly appreciate his deep understanding and strong support for the Guard, its needs, and its future.

I wish him, his wife Janet, and their children and grandchild all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Madam President, in Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS, Georgians have had a diligent voice in Congress for nearly 20 years. We may not always agree, but I

have appreciated his willingness to cross the aisle on such important issues as budget priorities and agriculture policy.

Senator CHAMBLISS is the former chairman and ranking member of the Senate agriculture committee. In his time in Congress, Senator CHAMBLISS has participated in enactment of four bipartisan omnibus agriculture bills, the most recent of which is the 2014 farm bill. He played an important role in reforming the Crop Insurance Program and has been an advocate for supporting the Nation's agricultural sector. I have particularly appreciated his support for critical conservation and forestry programs.

Senator CHAMBLISS was recognized as a key legislator in the 2011 discussions surrounding deficit reduction. He has been an active member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the National Guard. Through his tenure, he has been a steadfast representative for the people of Georgia, and one prominent publication in the State gave him the title "Georgian of the Year" in 2009.

Senator CHAMBLISS will retire at the end of this Congress, and I wish him, his wife Julianne, their children, and grandchild all the very best.

TOM COBURN

Madam President, while several Members of this Senate class will be retiring this year at the end of their terms, another Senator will also be taking his leave of this Chamber, in the midst of his current term. For a decade, Senator TOM COBURN has represented his constituents in Oklahoma with steadfast dedication and perseverance. He and I have not always agreed, but I have always respected and admired his commitment to his principles.

Senator COBURN has built a record and reputation as a fiscal hawk, reminiscent in some ways of the role that the late Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio assumed for many years in the Senate. Senator COBURN can be a tough bargainer, and sometimes he has chosen not to seek or accept compromise at all. But he also has shown the ability to work across the aisle, whether on reducing government spending or promoting transparency in government. In the first Congress in which he served in the Senate, he partnered with then-Senator Barack Obama and others to author the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which established a public, online database detailing Federal spending. For many years he served as an active member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where we worked together on such policy issues as patent reform, copyright protections, and support for law enforcement.

Senator COBURN is a longtime public servant for the State of Oklahoma. Members retire from Congress for a host of reasons, and I know Senator COBURN's retirement has been hastened. He has left his mark on this in-

stitution, and I wish him, his wife Carolyn, their three daughters and their grandchildren good health and all the best in TOM COBURN's retirement from the Senate.

MIKE JOHANNIS

Madam President, it is not uncommon for Senators to leave this Chamber to serve in Cabinet positions. Senator MIKE JOHANNIS, however, brought that executive branch experience with him when he was elected by the people of Nebraska to represent them in the Senate. A former mayor, Governor, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Senator JOHANNIS has served at every level of government.

While we have often supported competing proposals, we have found important and meaningful places to work together. Senator JOHANNIS joined me in coauthoring legislation to improve the Food for Peace program, helping to feed an additional 200,000 people in dire need. Serving on the agriculture committee together, we are both committed to farming, family farming, and supporting our Nation's agriculture sectors and the people and communities that are part and parcel of farming and food production in America. Senator JOHANNIS has also been an important advocate for veterans, working on programs to help returning soldiers find civilian employment.

I wish Senator JOHANNIS, his wife Stephanie, and their family the very best in this next chapter of their lives.

MURTHY NOMINATION

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Dr. Vivek H. Murthy on his confirmation as the 19th Surgeon General of the United States.

Earlier today, the U.S. Senate held a series of votes in order to confirm Dr. Vivek H. Murthy as Surgeon General of the United States. The first vote was held to invoke cloture on his nomination, the second to confirm. Dr. Murthy was successfully confirmed by a vote of 51-43.

My flight from Cleveland to Washington, DC was delayed causing me to miss both votes. Had I been present, I would have voted to support Mr. Murthy's nomination.

President Obama nominated Dr. Murthy for this position last November. Dr. Murthy's extensive experience as an entrepreneur, health professional, and public health advocate make him an exceptionally well qualified candidate for Surgeon General. Although I was unable to make it to DC in time to vote to help confirm Dr. Murthy, I would have voted to support his confirmation.

Dr. Vivek H. Murthy will be an exemplary Surgeon General, and it is for this reason that I wrote to President Obama asking that he nominate Dr. Murthy for this position. His long record of innovative business leadership and unwavering belief in a more inclusive health care system advance our Nation's public health agenda.