

TRIBUTES TO HON. PETE V. DOMENICI



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**Pete V. Domenici**

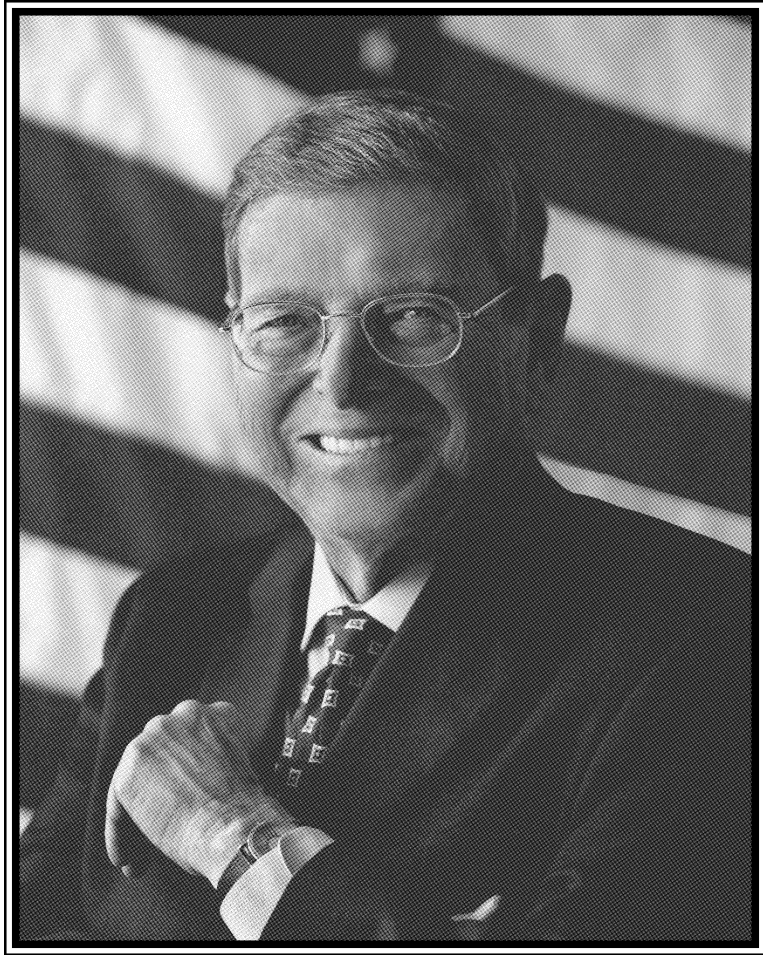
**U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

**TRIBUTES**

**IN THE CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES**



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Pete V. Domenici

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S. Doc. 110-23

Tributes  
Delivered in Congress

Pete V. Domenici  
United States Senator  
1973-2009



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of the  
Joint Committee on Printing*

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## BIOGRAPHY

The longest serving U.S. Senator in New Mexico history, U.S. Senator PETE V. DOMENICI is a respected leader on some of the most important issues of our time, such as strengthening our energy security, curbing nuclear proliferation, and promoting fiscal responsibility in the Federal budget.

A child of Italian immigrants, PETE DOMENICI was born and raised in Albuquerque. In 1954 he earned an education degree from the University of New Mexico. After graduating, PETE pitched for the Albuquerque Dukes—a farm club for the old Brooklyn Dodgers. He left baseball to become a math teacher at Garfield Junior High in Albuquerque in 1955. In 1958 he earned his law degree from the University of Denver and returned to Albuquerque to enter private practice.

In the mid-1960s he was elected to the Albuquerque City Commission and served as chairman, the city's equivalent to mayor. PETE DOMENICI was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972 and served six 6-year terms.

PETE DOMENICI was the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, having served as its chairman following a long tenure in charge of the Senate Budget Committee. Senator DOMENICI served on the Budget Committee, as well as the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

When he became chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 2003 Senator DOMENICI put his years of legislative experience to work to craft the first major comprehensive energy bill since 1992. Many thought that the task was nearly impossible, but Senator DOMENICI gained bipartisan consensus and passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct).

This new energy law created incentives to accelerate U.S. development of its own energy resources, including solar, wind, and geothermal sources that are clean and renewable. The law helped to strengthen the renaissance of nuclear power in the United States. EPAAct invests heavily in new technologies to make conventional fossil fuels cleaner to use.

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And, in late 2006, Senator DOMENICI engineered the enactment of a law that will open areas of the Gulf of Mexico for energy exploration. This could yield 1.26 billion barrels of American-owned oil and 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the near future. The Senator has now turned his attention toward building on this legislation to help strengthen our Nation's energy security by unleashing innovation in clean energy technologies.

Senator DOMENICI has always believed in the power of science and technology to improve lives and make the world safer. As a leader on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, PETE DOMENICI has worked to fund and equip the Department of Energy's National Laboratory System—including Sandia and Los Alamos labs in New Mexico—to ensure these world-class scientific facilities can carry out their nuclear deterrent and scientific missions. Senator DOMENICI is a major proponent of nonproliferation programs, such as the MOX initiative to convert U.S. and Russian weapons materials into safe, usable material that cannot be used in weapons.

Senator DOMENICI's commitment to science and technology is also exemplified in his work to make the United States more competitive in the global marketplace. He is a co-author of bipartisan legislation to promote the American Competitiveness Initiative that would force substantial changes to promote science and technology education and ensure that the United States does not lose its place as a scientific and technological leader in the world.

Senator DOMENICI has also been called the father of the human genome project for his work to focus Federal resources behind research to better our understanding of the human DNA blueprint. He is a nationally recognized advocate for people with mental illness, and has worked tirelessly to build on the landmark 1996 mental health parity law he wrote to obtain parity through fair insurance coverage for people who suffer from mental illnesses.

As one of the longest serving members of the Senate Budget Committee in Senate history, Senator DOMENICI has a unique understanding of the Federal budget process. The Senator is a longtime advocate of pro-growth policies such as lower taxes and balanced budgets and was instrumental in the passage of the Balanced Budget Agreement in 1997. He also worked on a bipartisan basis to enact legislation to force Congress to tackle the complicated task of ensuring the longevity of Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlement

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programs whose growth threatens the Nation's long-term fiscal health.

On the local level, Senator DOMENICI has been a leader in promoting New Mexico's economy. He has worked to ensure equal opportunities for women and minorities who seek to own businesses, and has been an advocate for Indian education and infrastructure improvements. He has, for example, also fought to make sure that New Mexico receives its fair share of Federal dollars through the Federal appropriations process and through programs like Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), which reimburses rural counties for lost revenue from Federal lands.

Senator DOMENICI was also a leader on water issues. He has been intimately involved in finding commonsense solutions to address the water crisis in New Mexico and the arid West, and is the leading advocate of better, affordable desalination technologies. He has worked to find consensus on difficult environmental issues such as endangered species and bosque restoration by working to protect the environment and addressing urgent water needs.

Over a decade ago PETE DOMENICI introduced the Character Counts Program to New Mexico. Since that time, thousands of New Mexico schoolchildren have learned the six basic pillars of good character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Senator DOMENICI is still heavily involved in supporting the curriculum in New Mexico schools.

PETE DOMENICI has been married to the former Nancy Burke since 1958. They are the parents of eight children—two sons and six daughters.



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## Farewell to the Senate

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first, I have to thank the distinguished Republican leader for his kind remarks and equally as important for his consideration of me ever since he has been our leader. It has been easy for me to make suggestions and to know he would listen. It has been easy for me, when he has asked me to do things, to do them because for the most part he has been right on his ideas, he has been right on his judgment. I very much appreciate his remarks here today.

I have worked with a number of leaders, as everyone knows, and they are all wonderful people. Obviously, when you serve with people such as the distinguished Senator Bob Dole, who was in your position, I say to my good friend who just remarked on my behalf, and when you sit in the same position as our good friend from Tennessee, who sat there for so long, Howard Baker, you know you are in good company. And I know you are in good company. But I would say to them, they are in good company with you.

Now, I am supposed to say goodbye to the Senate and that is probably what I am not going to do because I do not quite know how to do it. But I am going to say something in my address today. It may be a little bit broken up. But I do want to start by saying I want to thank my wife first.

Frankly, to be honest, she should not have let me run for the Senate. After I ran for city council and became mayor of Albuquerque, we already had our children. We were not a moneyed family, and I guess you all could guess we were pretty broke. Here I was in that condition telling her that I want to run for something else. And the Lord blessed me. I had a luck-out. I got a big lawsuit that settled. No, it did not. It went to jury right about that time and made a lot of money. I was able to at least tell my wife we were not going to go broke running for the Senate, although there would not be much around for us to share. The case was a good one, and it made us able to go on through that campaign.

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But anybody who has been from a family that is as large as ours knows that for the head of the household to decide to run and serve as a Senator, especially in a State like New Mexico—which is not Republican at all, and which is, very big—for the lady of the household to say yes, and then to live with it, has not been an easy job.

She has probably had as hard a job—a much harder job—than I, and she has never been anything but beautiful and decent and honest and loving and caring. Obviously, she did not have enough time to do all these things that I have done. She did some of them. But I can say, wherever any of the Members and their wives met her, they had nothing but good things to say because they could not say otherwise. She deserves just that.

Let me say that these remarks about the Senate itself—I say to my fellow retiree sitting here, JOHN WARNER—I could do this in 20 minutes or 2 days because, obviously, there is so much to talk about. The time in the Senate, when you look at it day by day, was wrenching and difficult at times. It was so hard; but when you look at it over 36 years, it is like a storm. It blew by, and all of a sudden it is 36 years later, and you are gone. Nobody will experience the strange feeling it is after 36 years in a place such as this to wake up of a morning and say you are not going to be here anymore. I don't know what I could offer the Senate to make it more pleasant for people who are leaving, but for me it is time to say goodbye.

Having said that, I wish to move on to what makes a Senator succeed. I have a list of the people who have worked for me in my Senate office here, or in my Senate office in New Mexico, or on the Budget Committee, or on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I will say I could not have done what I have done without fantastic leadership from my staff. My first recommendation to anybody coming here anew is don't let anybody tell you that you can get by with just this person or that person. You have to find people who are smart, people who are gifted, people who are ambitious, and people who want to serve you, the Senator, and make you achieve for your constituency. I have been blessed by an abundance of them. They are not all still here. They are all over the place. Wherever they are, most are in high places doing distinguished things.

The whole list I wish to mention will go in the *Record* shortly. There are three or four people who I want to recommend. First, Steve Bell, who has been with me for most

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of my 36 years—all but 8. Those 8 years he took off to go to Wall Street and make his own fortune. He did that. Then he came back, and I caught him one day when he wasn't doing anything. I asked him if he would like to work, and he wondered: Where? I said, "How does chief of staff sound?" He didn't bother to say I have to talk to my wife or anything. He said, "I will take it." And he has been here ever since.

A young man named Alex Flint, as well as another young man in my office—a lawyer—Ed Hild, who shepherded the mental health parity bill for 10 years. There are many other people. I am sorry I mentioned three, because others are going to wonder why I didn't mention them. I am compelled to mention two others. Bill Hoagland was the director of the Budget Committee and is now known in the United States as our Nation's foremost expert on the budget of the United States. He has written a white paper on the budget and it is incredible. Anybody who wants to know the first 25-year history of the Budget Act should read Bill Hoagland's white paper.

Then there is a lady named Carol McGuire who I got from one of the other appropriations Senators. He was a Democrat. As he left, she came to work for me more than 25 years ago. I can tell you with all honesty, she became as if she were a New Mexican. She knows more about her adopted State, which is my State, than any living public servant of any category in anyplace in New Mexico, because she has served me there and that means in every district she has been the principal person on appropriations projects and activities.

Clearly, there are many others and they all have my greatest thanks as I ask unanimous consent to have this list printed in the *Record* at this time. As I go through and find a few more that I must put in, I think the Senate will indulge me to add them.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

Steve Bell, Ed Hild, Alex Flint, Bill Hoagland, Chris Gallegos, Charles Gentry, Carol McGuire, Angela Raish, Lee Rawls, Paul Gilmon, Denise Ramonas, George Ramonas, Darlene Garcia, Peggy Mallow, Lisa Breeden, Susie Cordero, Ernest Vigil, Joe Trujillo, Joyce Pullen, Poe and Nancy Corn, Lou Gallegos, Cheryl Rodriguez, Clay Sell, Frank Macchiarola, Scott O'Malia, Maggie Murray, Davie Schiappa.

Mr. President, now I wish to say that I looked for a little bit of history about myself to see what I said when I first came to the Senate. In those days you waited a few months

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before speaking on the floor, so I will tell you that I did not give a so-called maiden speech, Mr. Leader, until I had been here 4 full months. I guess it was because I was frightened. I thought this was such a mammoth organization with such compelling things happening, I didn't know where I should be or what I should do. I sat in that seat over there because I was 99th in the Senate. Joe Biden was 100 when I came. Incidentally, they parked him in my office, so there were two Senators in the same office when I arrived because Joe had no place to stay and they put us together. So it was DOMENICI and Biden in the same office.

But what I said, Mr. Leader, in my first speech—I will just read one sentence, and I said this: “Let us quit this self-serving struggle and get on with the business of governing.”

Now, that was when the Senate didn't have time to legislate because we were arguing about Richard Nixon. As a brand-new Senator, I said those words. Now, isn't it interesting that I could say those words today. I wish we could quit partisan arguing and get more done. As I leave the Senate, I must say there is no place like the Senate. I don't think you could ever invent one. It has evolved out of our Constitution and out of the rules, the Jeffersonian rules that were adopted, and then the evolution occurred with this body trying to meet the challenges of this fantastic, great country, from its infancy to the growth that it has today. Believe it or not, we have passed over the years one-sentence bills that were very meaningful that took a long time. We have had complicated matters that probably we never thought would be handled by the Senate or the House. One of those is before us today.

It is so complex for this kind of a body to legislate this problem that we are having in our financial markets that one wonders whether we can do it. But I do wish to say that it is my feeling that we will solve the problem. We will solve the financial problem which could cause the ruination of our country, and it is because the Senate almost always, if not always, finds somebody who will take the lead. Somebody will rise up and be the leader. Somebody will take the reins and run with it and others will follow, and you will get done what must be done for America. There is no question that it is easy to play politics, even with something as profound as our financial system and its potential for bankruptcy. It is easy to play politics and hide when you have something before you that says perhaps we are going to have a depression



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if we don't act. But the Senate doesn't expect everybody to agree.

I want to address for a moment two things that are happening in the Senate that I wish could be changed. First is the filibuster—which I am a staunch advocate of retaining—but I wish we could find a way to use it less. The use of the filibuster so frequently is beginning to distort this place. Second, when you add it with a couple of other things such as the filling of the tree activity, we are becoming more and more like the House and less and less like a U.S. Senate. I don't know whether we can do anything about that, but surely we ought to be solving more problems in a bipartisan way. I think the rules of our Senate are more apt to operate well if Senators could work together rather than being polarized. Again, I can't say anyone is wrong in doing it, because we feel very strongly about the issues before us, and that is why these things happen.

I did mention, at least in passing, in these few words about New Mexico and the things I was privileged to do there. And, how they made me what I am by letting me do for them what they needed. I do wish to mention that there are great people in that State. As a matter of fact, people don't know that those two giant national laboratories in the State of New Mexico, the one called Los Alamos and the other one at Sandia. Between the two of them, they provide more PhDs and advanced degrees in science, math, and physics to that part of the United States than any other part of the country. It is rather phenomenal what they do and what they contribute. To be part of them has caused me to become somewhat of an expert in nuclear power, and I am proud to tell my colleagues that nuclear power is in a renaissance posture. I take a little bit of credit for it because I spent 10 years working on it, and finally, it came forward. We are going to have nuclear power. It will take awhile, because it takes about 4 years to clear the permits, but they are coming forward four at a time, four permits at a time. There are about 26 of them, 1,000-megawatt units pending before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Our distinguished leader mentioned one, because one had to start it off, but we have many more now than one. Those nuclear powerplants will begin to help America achieve what we have always been best at: We will achieve with large operating machines that are perfectly safe; we will achieve without any carbon dioxide to bother the outer limits where we are worrying about climate change. They have no emissions

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that have anything to do with that. What a big achievement for us. I am proud to have had something to do with that.

There are many more things that are kind of matched between New Mexicans telling me about them and my getting to work on them up here. Because of my scientists and the expertise in nuclear matters, I was encouraged after the two balanced budgets that I was privileged to put forth and manage—we did have two of them, John, even though we look back and wonder when was it and will it ever come again, we had two in a row. I was chairman of the Budget Committee. After that, my staff said, “What is next, Senator?” I said, “I don’t know. We have to dream it up.” We have already balanced the budget and we all came up with let’s work on nuclear power, and we did. That is how it happened. One thing followed another. One accomplishment begged out and asked for another. That was, indeed, exciting. Many other things have happened in the field of energy, in the field of nonproliferation.

I remember going to Russia when we finalized an agreement with the Russians. President Clinton invited me because I was the one who led the cause here to buy the remnants of 20,000 missiles that had been taken apart in Russia and they had highly enriched uranium in abundance. We bought it. It was my proposal: \$350 million. The lights in the leader’s home and in people’s homes today—10 percent of all of the lights in America are being lit by that highly enriched uranium that is still flowing from that agreement, which is about 14 years old. Now we are going to enter into new agreements to use that material that comes out of those nuclear rockets; 20,000 is what was dismantled for what we bought, but there is much more there, and that is always dangerous for America and for the world. So somebody will need to fill this vacuum and work hard at it. I heard the Presidential candidates speaking of it. I am not quite sure that either of them has been involved enough to know what is going on, but I wish whichever one of them wins well in that regard, because that is important. The nonproliferation of nuclear materials is drastically important.

Now, I don’t know whether I am going to be around here. My wife Nancy and I haven’t decided whether we are going to live here or in New Mexico. If we live here, I won’t be bugging anybody or bothering anybody, but maybe some of you might bother me. Who knows, I might have a cause that brings me to talk to you once in awhile. But leaving will be difficult for me. You all already know me. I don’t take things

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lightly. I get so worked up about this issue of the possible financial problems of our country. I feel so personal about it. But, you must take care of it after I leave. After a day of debating and arguing, I feel so uptight about the fact that we didn't do something, that I don't know how we can continue day after day, especially the leader, waiting for these things to materialize.

I want it done yesterday when I see a problem as big as the one we have in terms of our financial system. The first day I find out all about it, I want to sit down and finish it, Leader. I guess you have sensed that, have you not? I bother you a lot asking what is going on, when are we going to do this, when are we going to do that.

If I don't have any of that around, I don't know what exactly I will do or what kind of a person I may become. Maybe I will just fade away. I hope not and I doubt it.

What I have learned in the Senate I wish every Senator would learn, every Republican Senator, just speaking to my own party, I learned that the best way to solve a big problem is to do it in a bipartisan manner.

That puts me looking over my left shoulder and seeing Senator Bingaman. He is a Democrat. He has not been here as long. Almost as long. The way he is going, he is probably going to pass my 36 years. Although every time I tell him that, he nods no. I don't see what he is going to do if he isn't in the Senate. He is so involved. He loves it.

I do wish to say something about the most successful piece of legislation in 36 years. I did budgets, but they are not legislated. I did reconciliation bills, which I am going to talk about in a moment as my closing remarks. But when it came to doing a major energy bill, we failed until I made up my mind that I would not do it unless I did it in a bipartisan manner.

I went to my fellow Senator, Senator Bingaman, and I said, "Are you willing to give it a try? We will do it in a bipartisan manner." I was chairman for 3 years. And he said, "It will be great." I can tell you that the last 2 years were the best years of legislating here that I have had, and I think he would say the same. He recalls he pushed me, and he knows I pushed him. That means I took him as far as I could, and when I got to a certain place, I said, "I better agree with him, he doesn't want to do this, because he is apt to quit, he is at the end of the rope." I don't know how many times he did that to me, but that is how you do it. You have

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to push and push, and then you have to give. That was a very exciting thing and a lesson for all of us.

There are too many people who don't know what is in that bill and they talk about it. But that bill is the reason why we are going to have a rebirth of nuclear power. It is the reason we are moving ahead as rapidly as we are in solar energy and wind energy, no question about it. It is a bill that set the ground rules for improving the national grid for electricity so we might have a day soon when we can say the national grid will not break again. It will continue unabated. No matter what you do to it, you will not knock the whole thing offline. Those are the kinds of things that are in this bill, and much more, on conservation and a host of other issues.

We did that bill in 2 years because we walked hand in hand, Republican and Democrat. He had to, as it goes, because I was chairman, take a lot less notoriety in New Mexico than I got. I never heard him complain a bit. He should have probably told me every now and then, "Why don't you shut up for a week and let me talk about the bill so New Mexicans will know I am working too." But he didn't do that. When we finally finished, the President of the United States made sure he got his credit because Senator Bingaman went for the signing of that bill. The reason he got so much credit is because I put on a pair of glasses to hide from the Sun. They were so big and bulky that people didn't know who I was. They surely knew who he was because he was clear and lucid and I had these glasses hiding me. So he got his just due.

My last comments have something to do internally to the Senate that I have achieved with the help of some mighty fine people, with Steve Bell and Bill Hoagland as leaders.

We passed a bill in 1974 called the Budget Impoundment Act of the United States. That was done for two reasons. One, President Richard Nixon got involved a little too much in impounding as a means of cutting budgets. So he would impound ongoing projects, such as a water project, I say to David sitting there.

I should comment that without David Schiappa and all his staff, we cannot make it. This place needs the young, smart, dedicated, and honest.

Here is what happened in that law. That law was passed, and it was bragged about that Senator Robert Byrd joined with those who put it together, and it will run and operate exactly as it was written, and there are no loopholes in that

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bill. Maybe there were not and maybe there were, but early on, we found you could not get anything out of the Budget Act by just adopting budget resolutions because there was no way to enforce anything other than points of order. So we found a little section in there called reconciliation. That is a funny word. We said: We are going to interpret reconciliation to mean our committee can order another committee to do something and how. What they are ordered to do is reconcile with the budget. We soon found we could reconcile tax bills. We could reconcile entitlements. We could reconcile direct spending.

Lo and behold, the committees had to do it or we would do it. They said: You will never do it because you are not the committee chairman; it is my committee. I said that is the perfect intent of this provision. If you don't want me to do it, you better do it. We never had to find out whether the chairman could because they always did it.

Why is that so important? Because reconciliation was provided to make sure you could not delay matters of budget. It was not filibusterable, let me say. A matter in that budget, anything in that Budget Act that was put forth before the Senate was not subject to filibuster.

Senator Byrd, the first or second time we used it, came to the floor and said, "That is not what we intended." And we said, "Well, we think it is. We had a vote. The Senate said it was."

If you wonder why almost all the major legislation of the U.S. Government has been appearing with a funny name—it is usually called something that says "Budget and Reconciliation Act of" such and such a year. That is generally the major piece of legislation that we passed—major tax changes, major Medicare changes, major Social Security changes, if any. All of them will come out in that form. That means every one of those bills became law because of that interpretation of the Budget Act that we put on it called reconciliation. That is how all the bills passed.

What does it tell you then? It tells you that a filibuster doesn't work because to get the work of budgeting done, you abandon filibuster. You send it to a temporary ash heap—not permanently—because if you tried to do it permanently, everybody would die because they think the filibuster would be abolished and maybe there would be a vote. But that is not what happens in the Budget Act. You can read it in the act and interpret it and say you cannot stop budgets indefinitely. There is no reason to have a budget. If you stop the imple-

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mentation indefinitely, you kill the budget. Right? That is where it comes from.

I certainly took a lot more than 20 minutes, but I didn't take 2 days to say goodbye and to tell you how I felt about this place. But it took a long time. Some of you certainly could have gone a long time ago, but out of courtesy to me, you have sat here, including you, Mr. Leader.

I do hope whoever reads the *Record* and whoever hears me today and those of you who are on the floor, at least got out of this that I worked pretty hard at being a Senator. I somehow got myself involved in a lot of different things, and it was kind of fun that way. We got things done. We didn't always make a lot of noise, although I am known to make noise, if necessary. But those were not the areas I was involved in.

I wish to close with one funny story about my wife, Senator Ted Kennedy, and myself. One night I was over here and Senator Kennedy was over there. My wife sometimes watches the television to see what we do here on the floor. It was between 7 and 9 in the evening. When I talk loud, you notice my face gets red. I didn't talk very loud today, but you have seen plenty of times late in the evening when I talk loud and my face gets red. Some people say it is because you are yelling. I don't know what it is. Maybe it is yelling, maybe it is just talking too loud.

I got a note. I was called to the Cloakroom, so I went to the Cloakroom while Senator Kennedy held the floor. My wife had written a note and said—my family nickname is Bocci, not PETE: "Bocci, you don't do any better when you yell and get red in the face than when you talk low and you don't get red in the face. I love you."

I came back. I said to Senator Kennedy, when it finally got to be my turn: "Senator Kennedy, I want you to know I got a note from my wife."

He said, "Oh, you mean Nancy."

I said, "Yes, Nancy."

He said, "What about it?"

I said, "She sent you a note. Really." So I read him the note with his name in place of Bocci my name: "Dear Senator Kennedy, you don't do any better when you yell and get red in the face than you do when you talk low and you don't get red in the face." I said, "I don't know why my wife said that to you, but she did." My wife would almost not let me in the door that night. But we made our point and both of us tried from time to time to yell a little less.

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I hope he is getting well or feeling better. We finished a bill that I did not mention—maybe I did in passing—but we did a bill together over the past 8 years, which is a very important bill for the mentally ill of our country. I have worked on mental illness issues for about 25 years. The treatment of the mentally ill in the United States is one of the most disgraceful ways of handling a social problem of almost anything. We let them all out of dungeons and then provide no physical facilities for them. We just thought it will happen, but it didn't happen. That is the worst. We acted like it wasn't a disease, even though it is. In the meantime, insurance companies decided not to cover it. Even if they had an insurance policy that covered everything, they would cover the mentally ill less. This bill says that will not happen anymore. Insurance companies would not be able to do that any more—the bill is called parity, which means fairness, which means equality. We are going to have fairness and equality of treatment by all insurance companies for the mentally ill.

Senator Kennedy was as excited about that as I was. He is very sorry he couldn't be here when you helped me, Mr. Leader, get that through the other day. We called him and told him and sent him a letter saying we couldn't have done it without him.

That bill will cover 113 million people who will no longer have the threat of having less than full coverage for their mental illness, such as they do for other diseases.

That seems like it is pretty close to the end of my time, my 36 years. It will soon actually be, literally, 36 years, but for now, I will act as if it is and say this is my time to say thank you to the Senate and to all those who have worked with me and with whom I have been privileged to work.

What a magnificent opportunity I have had. Coming from Albuquerque, my father never went to school. He got here at 13. He claimed he was lucky. He didn't have to go to school because the law said if you are 13, you don't have to. He didn't know education was valuable, so he was glad to go to work. He didn't want me to go to law school because he was quite sure I had been overeducated. But when I explained it to him, he paid for everything. He said, "I want you to be a lawyer," which was absolutely fantastic.

It has been an honor to serve my home State of New Mexico. With that, I just want to say thank you and goodbye.





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TRIBUTES  
TO  
PETE V. DOMENICI



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## Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *July 24, 2008*

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I thank my friend from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI]. I know his service in this body is one that every American should admire. He is a good Senator for his State. He has been a warm and friendly senior Senator to this very junior Senator from Missouri. I appreciate his friendship very much.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. I will not use her time, I will use mine. It has been a pleasure since I first met the Senator. I don't always remember all of the new names, but the Senator has the same name as one of my daughters. We have become friends. I admire the Senator from Missouri too, and say I do believe she is learning to be a Senator very fast. I am proud to be her friend. I thank her for her kind words.

SATURDAY, *July 26, 2008*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would just say what an honor it has been to serve with Senator DOMENICI. There is no more effective advocate, no more courageous Senator in terms of speaking the truth about complex matters in words that Americans can understand, and no stronger Senator in committing to a sound economic policy than Senator DOMENICI. We are going to miss him in this body, there is no doubt about it.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I would like to first thank my colleague from New Mexico and ask him a question, because this will be the last year he is serving in this body. He has served in it for many years, very distinguished. It has been my pleasure to get to know him. Senator DOMENICI can be irascible sometimes, but he is always fair. I find he will get on both sides, depending on which way he makes the call. . . .

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Mr. ALLARD. I think the Senator from New Mexico, Mr. DOMENICI, has done a fabulous job with the energy issue, not just this year when it is fashionable—and this is the big issue—but he has devoted his whole legislative career to energy, making it available, how we can use research and technology to meet the energy needs of this country. He is recognized not only by me but nearly all Members of this Senate for his hard work on energy. We all should appreciate that work.

I join in the chorus of those who have congratulated Senator DOMENICI on a distinguished career. His dedication to energy—I cannot think of another subject one could pick up that would have more of a long-term impact on this country, whether we are talking about economic security, whether we are talking about military security, or whether we are just talking about a secure home where one can rely on utilities and everything to have a comfortable lifestyle in this country. The Senator needs to be recognized for that. It is a pleasure for me to do so, as I have served on several committees now with him. He is very articulate on this subject, and he does a great job.

TUESDAY, *September 23, 2007*

Mr. DODD. ... Let me mention PETE DOMENICI. PETE is a wonderful friend of mine. We are two people of opposite political parties who don't agree on a lot, looking back over the years we have been here together. We have taken different sides of many issues. But PETE and Nancy Domenici are remarkable people. He will be leaving the Senate in a few days after a distinguished career. I had the honor of being with PETE and Nancy in Las Cruces, NM, to speak at a dinner for him at the Pete Domenici Center for Public Policy, which is now going to be part of New Mexico State University. I had dinner with PETE and several colleagues, past and present, who have worked with him over the years.

WEDNESDAY, *September 24, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Senator PETE DOMENICI, who is retiring from the Senate this year after serving since 1972, once said to me that we don't say goodbye in the Senate very well. As a matter of fact, we don't say hello very

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well either. We have a little orientation program, but we abruptly arrive and leave. We leave in the midst of a lot of turmoil and discussion with very little time to say goodbye. Yet in between that arrival and leaving, we have very intense personal relationships. We virtually live with each other. We see each other often for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We see each other more than we see our families. So when there is a time for saying goodbye, we look for ways to say it a little better.

There are five Members of our body, all of them Republicans, who have announced their retirement for this year. While I won't be speaking at length about them here today, I want to recognize their service. I will do it in the traditional way in the Senate, which is to start with seniority. By "seniority," I mean from the time I have known them. . . .

Senator DOMENICI from New Mexico has been here since 1972. That is a long time. He arrived as a young man. He had been a chairman of the Albuquerque City Commission, a math teacher, a baseball player. It was unusual for a Republican to be elected to the Senate from New Mexico. He has served with distinction all that time. He was the first Republican chairman of the Budget Committee. He has been a leader in a renaissance of nuclear energy in this country which is so important because of its low cost and because it is clean. A great many people, including myself, are concerned about global warming. Well, 70 percent of our carbon-free electricity in the United States comes from nuclear energy. Senator DOMENICI, more than almost anyone, has been behind the revival of interest in nuclear energy. He has truly been one of the most consequential Senators of the last half century. . . .

I say to all five of those Senators, we will miss them. We are grateful for their service. I know people must look at the Senate in many different ways.

Let me conclude by telling a story about how some teachers look at it. We have a tradition in the Senate of making a maiden address. It is kind of a funny name, but we still call it that. We pick the subject of most interest to us. My subject was to put the teaching of U.S. history and civics back in its proper place in the school curriculum so our children would grow up learning what it means to be an American. There is not too much the Federal Government can do about that, but what we were able to do is to begin summer academies for outstanding teachers and students of American history. One group of those teachers was here in July,

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one from each State. I brought them on the Senate floor early one morning. I took them to Daniel Webster's desk, which is occupied by the senior Senator from New Hampshire right here by me. I took them back to that part of the Senate where Jefferson Davis' desk is, occupied by the senior Senator from Mississippi, and told them the story of how the marks in the desk are because a Union soldier came in during the Civil War and started chopping on it with his sword. His commanding officer came in and said, "Stop that. We are here to protect the Union, not to destroy it."

This Chamber is full of history, full of our country. Anyone who stands on this floor and sees the engravings of "In God We Trust" or "E Pluribus Unum" and gets a sense of what has happened here has respect for it. The teachers had that respect. When we got to the end of our visit, one teacher said to me, I think it was the teacher from Oregon, "Senator, what would you like for us to take home to our students about our visit to the Senate floor?"

I said, "I hope you will take back that each of us takes our position a lot more seriously than we take ourselves. We understand we are accidents, that we are very fortunate and privileged to be here, that each of us reveres our country, and we respect this institution. I can only speak for myself, but I think it is true of Senators on both sides of the aisle that we get up every day thinking first of how we can make a little contribution before we go to bed at night that will help the country be a little better off than it was in the morning. That means serving in the Senate is a very great privilege. I hope you will take that back to your students. I don't know what they see on television or read in the newspaper about the Senate, but that is how we feel about the privilege we have to serve here."

To these five Senators—Warner, DOMENICI, Craig, Hagel, and Allard—we say goodbye. They are members of our family. We appreciate their service. We know they have believed it has been a very great privilege to serve in the Senate. For us it has been a great privilege to serve with them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments about some of our departing colleagues who will not be joining us for the next session of Congress. They are great colleagues, people whom I have enjoyed working with in my 3½ years here in the Senate. They include Senator Allard from Colorado, Senator PETE DOMENICI from New Mexico,

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Senator John Warner from Virginia, Senator Chuck Hagel from Nebraska, and Senator Larry Craig from Idaho. . . .

PETE DOMENICI from New Mexico, the senior Senator from New Mexico, is one of the Senators here who comes from the same place my family came from many generations ago.

His constant reminding me of the beauty of the Land of Enchantment and his work on behalf of securing an energy future for America is second to none. We will be missing him also in terms of his major contributions to the Energy Committee. He also has done a lot with respect to a whole host of other issues, too many to mention, but in particular I want to mention his work on the mental health parity initiative which would not have happened without his leadership. We were successful in getting mental health parity in legislation we passed in the Senate yesterday, and it was in large part because of his passion and willingness to work hard on a bipartisan basis to bring people together to help create that achievement. . . .

I will miss my five colleagues. All of them are Republicans who are departing. Many of them brought a true spirit of bipartisanship and working together, which is worthy of the emulation of many Members of the Senate who will serve in this Chamber in the next Congress and in many Congresses to come.

I yield the floor.

THURSDAY, *September 25, 2008*

Mrs. DOLE. Madam President, let me say, first, following one of my dearest friends in the Senate, I cannot tell you how much I admire and respect this great man and how much he will be missed in the Senate.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I say to the Senator, thank you very much, Senator Dole.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I thank Senator DOMENICI for his 36 years of service here in the Senate, longer than any New Mexican in the State's history. I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator DOMENICI on the Budget Committee, where his leadership has been a cornerstone of the committee's work for decades. I have always appreciated his willingness to listen to and accommodate different points of view through the years. I also thank him for

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his work on biennial budgeting, something I also strongly support and was proud to work on with him.

Senator DOMENICI's commitment to mental health parity is well known and deserves special recognition. It is fitting that, on the eve of Senator DOMENICI's retirement, the Mental Health Parity Act of 2008, which he worked on with Senators Dodd, Kennedy, and Enzi, should pass the Senate. I was pleased to co-sponsor this bill and look forward to it being enacted.

Finally, I thank Senator DOMENICI for his vote in support of the McCain-Feingold legislation when it passed the Senate in 2002. It was his support, along with 59 other Senators, that gave us that victory after a long fight to ban soft money. I will always remember and appreciate his support, and I wish him all the best as he retires from the Senate.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great U.S. Senator and friend, Senator PETE DOMENICI. His tireless work as New Mexico's longest serving Senator in history has greatly benefited the people of his State and the United States of America. I am proud to have served with such a great statesman.

During his time in the Senate, PETE has been instrumental in passing thousands of pieces of legislation on many different issues. However, I got the distinct honor of serving with him on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he serves as the ranking member and former chairman. Over the years, he has been instrumental in passing comprehensive energy legislation to help our Nation adapt to changing energy needs and demands. By working side by side with PETE on the committee, I have gotten to witness first hand the hard work he puts into every piece of legislation that comes before him. He also has the ability to reach across the aisle to other Senators who routinely join him in passing bipartisan bills to benefit our country. I know that I can speak for all of my colleagues when I say that PETE's absence will be felt by all of us.

While I will greatly miss my friend's leadership on the Senate floor and in the Energy Committee, I know that he is looking forward to retirement and being able to spend some much-deserved time off with his wife Nancy and their family. I want to thank PETE for his contributions here in the Senate and wish him and his family well as they enter into a new chapter in their lives.



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FRIDAY, *September 26, 2008*

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I want to take just a few minutes to speak about our colleagues who have announced their plans to retire at the conclusion of this 110th Congress. We obviously will miss them. There are five individuals about whom I wanted to say a brief word: Senators Allard, Hagel, Craig, Warner, and DOMENICI. They have all brought their intelligence, principles, and perspectives on the issues confronting our Nation. The Nation is better for their efforts. . . .

The most senior Senator retiring this year, of course, is my colleague and friend, Senator PETE DOMENICI. He is not only the most senior Senator retiring this year from the Senate, he is also the most senior Senator New Mexico has ever had. When PETE leaves the Senate this year, it will be after 36 years of unstinting work doing his best for his country and for our State of New Mexico.

He will be the first to say that his success and longevity here could not have been possible without two important elements: his family and his staff. The love and support of his wife Nancy have been invaluable. Also, from the first, he has had a fine staff. It was true when he came to Washington and it is certainly true today, here and in New Mexico. They are skilled individuals who make it their business to be helpful to the people of our State.

Senator DOMENICI's contributions are well known to all of us. His work on the Budget Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee over the years has made a lasting impact on national policy. As a member of the Budget Committee, from the day he was sworn in, he was either the chairman or ranking member of that committee for 12 of his 36 years on the committee.

One of the things in which he takes great pride is helping to get us to a balanced Federal budget twice. We can all appreciate how difficult that kind of undertaking is.

Senator DOMENICI and I, of course, served on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee together. The Senate Historian has told us that as far as his office can tell, it is the only instance in the history of the Senate where Senators from the same State served as chairman and ranking member of the same committee at the same time. Obviously, I will miss that arrangement.

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New Mexicans, including me, have great affection and respect for PETE DOMENICI. “People for PETE” is the motto PETE has used in each of his campaigns for many years. It is not just a famous campaign phrase in our State—although it is seen on bumper stickers all over our State whenever a campaign is underway involving PETE—but it is a bit of a twist on what his career has been all about; that is: PETE for the people of New Mexico. That has been his commitment. He has carried through in great form.

We will miss his service to the State of New Mexico here in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to make a few comments about some of our departing colleagues who will no longer be with us next year. I have known some of them for just a little while, others I have known for a long time. And, to all of them I bid a fond farewell and *mahalo* for their service to their State and to this country. They are dear colleagues and friends of mine and I know that even if they leave this fine establishment, our friendships will continue long into the future.

The Senators that I am referring to are Senator John Warner from Virginia, Senator PETE DOMENICI from New Mexico, Senator Larry Craig from Idaho, Senator Chuck Hagel from Nebraska, and Senator Wayne Allard from Colorado. Please allow me just one moment to reflect on my service with each of these valuable Members. . . .

Another good friend and colleague, the senior Senator from New Mexico, Senator PETE DOMENICI has been serving the people of his home State and this Nation for 36 years. Like Senator Warner, Senator DOMENICI also works beyond party lines to address controversial issues and the concerns of stakeholders. He is truly an exemplary role model for all Members of Congress.

Senator DOMENICI is a man of his word and has respectfully worked with Members on both sides of the aisle. As a dedicated advocate he has helped encourage informed debates in the Senate. He has been a passionate advocate for many causes and has sought workable solutions.

I have had the distinct pleasure to serve with Senator DOMENICI as a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, as well as the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Senator DOMENICI has played an integral role in overcoming difficult challenges and meeting our country’s energy needs. As a member of these committees I have wit-

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nessed his genuine concern and commitment to improve the well-being of, and increase opportunities for, indigenous communities in Hawaii, across the Nation, and extending to our insular areas.

Senator DOMENICI has been one of the leading advocates for mental health care in our country. He and Senator Paul Wellstone were great partners in trying to bring about mental health parity. Since Paul's death, Senator DOMENICI has led this initiative and worked with all of us in a continued effort to ensure that individuals can access essential treatment.

Senator DOMENICI is a statesman and a gentleman. It has been a pleasure to work with him in the U.S. Senate. I am going to miss Senator DOMENICI and I extend my warmest *aloha* and heartfelt well wishes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I regret that I am not able to be in the Senate today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico.

Throughout my years in the Senate, I have been honored to serve with some of the brightest, most committed elected leaders in our Nation. But Senator DOMENICI stands out in particular. He has the unique ability to rise above partisanship and find real solutions to real problems.

He comes to every issue with a deep knowledge and desire to improve the lives of the people of New Mexico and the Nation. It has been a special honor to work with him for nearly 36 years, including many years on mental health issues. We both share a deep commitment to those issues because we know the immense toll that mental illness has taken on beloved members of our families, his daughter Clare and my sister Rosemary.

PETE and I are on opposite sides of the aisle in the Senate, but he has never approached mental health issues in a partisan way. Instead, he thinks of himself as an advocate for mental health reform and basic fairness for all our citizens.

Through PETE's skillful guidance and leadership, Congress has made major progress in breaking down the walls of discrimination against the mentally ill, especially in the judicial system and in education. On reform in mental health care, it has been a long, difficult battle for over a decade, but Senator DOMENICI's will and dedication has never wavered.

Years ago, young PETE played baseball for the Albuquerque Dukes, which was part of the old Brooklyn Dodgers farm system. Back in those days, disappointed Dodger fans

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coined the phrase, “Wait ’til next year” after coming up short of a championship season so often.

Now, at last, because of PETE, Americans suffering from mental illness may not have to “wait ’til next year” any longer. We are now closer than ever to finally passing mental health parity and putting an end to the long-standing shameful practice of discrimination in health insurance against persons with mental illness. On this issue, Senator DOMENICI has been absolutely relentless and absolutely brilliant. We could never have made it this far without him.

My only regret is that at the signing ceremony, when President Bush signs this landmark bill into law and looks up and hands the signing pen to Senator DOMENICI, we will all be sad that PETE is retiring from the Senate this year. He has been a continuing source of hope and inspiration to me and to millions of other people and their families across the Nation. He has made a truly extraordinary difference in the lives of families struggling with mental illness. It has been a great honor to serve with such a talented and dedicated public servant as Senator PETE DOMENICI. I will miss him very much in the years ahead.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my very dear friend and colleague, Senator PETE DOMENICI. Other than the members of the Utah congressional delegation, Utah has had no better friend in the Senate than the senior Senator from New Mexico. My State of Utah is made up mostly of public lands, and we have often relied on this good Senator for the support and expertise of solving some of our most difficult natural resource problems. Senators who understand the complexities of living in a public-land dominated State are few and far between, especially here in Washington. Having Senator DOMENICI in a leadership position on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource Policy has been my State’s salvation many times over.

In my personal view, Senator DOMENICI’s crowning achievement was the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This was one of the most comprehensive and bipartisan energy proposals ever passed by Congress. I have no doubt that this summer’s energy crisis would have been dramatically worse had EPACT 2005 not been passed when it was. It was a matter of dread and grave disappointment for some of us in the Senate to watch as the leadership of this Congress pursued efforts to turn back some of the most important steps that legislation took toward securing a better energy future for our people. And it is fitting that before this

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Congress ends along with Senator DOMENICI's Senate career, we have voted to reinstate and to extend many of the provisions established in EPACT 2005.

In particular, I praise Senator DOMENICI for his unfailing vision and leadership in working with me to establish the possibility in this country of developing our Nation's gigantic untapped oil shale resources. A lot has been said in the media about how oil shale development has not been proven yet and therefore is not likely to be successful. However, what these critics fail to consider is that the government has long had a policy to not develop its oil shale. We should keep in mind that the United States controls about 72 percent of the world's oil shale and that 73 percent of our resource is on Federal lands.

Without Senator DOMENICI's leadership, we would not have been able to pass the Oil Shale and Tar Sands Development Act as part of EPACT 2005. We would not now have a large, tristate environmental impact statement on oil shale, a voluminous task force report on oil shale from the Department of Energy, a research and development lease program ongoing at the Bureau of Land Management, and the soon-to-be-released final regulations on commercial oil shale leasing on Federal lands. He has maintained the vision of oil shale's potential benefit to our Nation's future and has never relented. I will ever be grateful to Senator DOMENICI for that.

My friend from New Mexico is not flashy. And I mean that as a high compliment. Where some Senators fight with rhetoric, Senator DOMENICI relies on reason. Where others search around for wedge issues, Senator DOMENICI finds solutions. Where others in the Senate seek to widen the aisle that divides us, Senator DOMENICI reaches across to bring us closer. The Senate is a better place because the people of New Mexico have sent us their senior Senator, and we will miss his presence here. As this Congress comes to a close, I say to my friend, *arrivederci, ti voglio bene*.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to speak about my great friend, Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico.

The longest serving U.S. Senator in New Mexico history, PETE has been a respected leader on some of the most important issues of our time, including energy security, nuclear proliferation, and fiscal responsibility.

PETE was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972 and is serving his sixth term.

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PETE is the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, having previously served as its chairman following a long tenure in charge of the Senate Budget Committee.

When he became chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 2003, PETE put his years of legislative experience to work to craft the first major comprehensive energy bill since 1992.

Many thought that the task was nearly impossible, but Senator DOMENICI gained bipartisan consensus and passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This new energy law created incentives to accelerate U.S. development of its own energy resources—including solar, wind, and nuclear power.

Then, in late 2006, Senator DOMENICI engineered the enactment of a new law that will open areas of the Gulf of Mexico for energy exploration. This could yield 1.26 billion barrels of American-owned oil and 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the near future.

Senator DOMENICI's commitment to America's prosperity is also exemplified in his work to make the United States more competitive in the global marketplace. He is a co-author of the America Competes Act, a landmark bill that will force substantial changes to promote science and technology education and ensure that the United States does not lose its place as the world's innovation leader.

Senator DOMENICI is a nationally recognized advocate for people with mental illness, having written the 1996 mental health parity law to ensure fair insurance coverage for people who suffer from that disease.

PETE has also been a champion in promoting New Mexico's economy. He has worked to ensure equal opportunities for women and minorities. He has worked to find consensus on difficult environmental issues. It has been a true honor to serve with him. The Senate will truly miss his leadership, and I will miss his friendship. Indeed, we will miss all our departing friends. I wish them well.

SATURDAY, *September 27, 2008*

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, few Senators have meant more to this body than PETE DOMENICI, and few are more deserving of that praise. I am honored today to say a few words on the floor of the Senate about the good and humble man we all know around here as "Uncle PETE."

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PETE is a classic American story that reminds us why America is so great. His parents were Italian immigrants who taught their five children the importance of faith, the rewards of hard work, the blessings of a big family, and an abiding love for their adopted country.

As an only son, PETE grew up fast, working in his father's wholesale grocery business, studying hard at St. Mary's High School in Albuquerque, and developing a good enough fastball to become a star pitcher at the University of New Mexico.

In a sign of his future success as a lawmaker, PETE put together an impressive 14 to 3 record his senior year in college. He was such a good pitcher, in fact, that he caught the attention of some major league scouts and soon earned a spot in the starting rotation of the Albuquerque Dukes.

Now, for most American boys growing up in the 1940s, being a minor league pitcher would have been enough. But not for the son of Alda and Cherubino Domenici. After earning his JD degree at the University of Denver, PETE became a lawyer. From there, he had the tools he would need to go to bat for the people of New Mexico for the next 5 decades.

Elected to the Albuquerque City Commission in 1966, he became chairman of Albuquerque the following year at the age of 35. It was there in the shadow of the Sandia Mountains that he got to know the needs and the ambitions of his friends and neighbors and seemingly everyone else.

Today there is almost no one in New Mexico—from the high plains in the east, to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the north, to the high plateaus that cover much of the rest of the State—who does not offer a smile of recognition at the familiar name of PETE DOMENICI.

Five years after becoming mayor, the people of New Mexico sent PETE to Washington. It was one of the best decisions the voters of any State have ever made.

In six terms, PETE has built a reputation for honesty that is second to none. The undisputed leader on energy issues in the Senate for nearly four decades, PETE saw the need to secure America's energy future before it was cool, even writing a book on the promise of nuclear energy.

Thanks largely to his efforts last year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission received its first application in 29 years for a nuclear powerplant.

PETE is the only American to be awarded the French nuclear society's highest award. He spearheaded efforts to pass the landmark Energy Policy Act of 2005, a comprehensive

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bill that has spurred the growth of renewable energy such as wind and solar and which has set America on a path of increased energy efficiency.

PETE authored the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, a bipartisan bill that opened new areas of the gulf to oil and natural gas exploration. Long before people were calling on Congress to find more and use less, PETE was showing us that it could be done.

PETE's tenure on the Budget Committee earned him a well-deserved reputation as one of the strictest fiscal hawks in Congress. As chairman or ranking member for nearly 23 years, he co-authored the original Budget Reform Act of 1974, which started the modern budget process and established the Congressional Budget Office. He authored the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, leading to 4 straight years of surpluses.

There is no greater friend of the disabled in this country than PETE DOMENICI. A co-author of the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996, he has fought tirelessly to expand it ever since. And just this week, all that hard work paid off when the Senate approved full mental health parity as part of the tax extenders bill. After years of patient effort, PETE's vision for expanded benefits for millions of struggling Americans will—we hope—soon be the law of the land.

PETE's contributions to his home State are literally legendary. He helped protect and preserve New Mexico's breathtaking natural beauty by working to create nearly 1 million acres of wilderness throughout the State. In concert with the National Park Service, he authorized the Route 66 initiative to help preserve the look and feel of this iconic American road.

He has helped bring water to rural communities through the water supply bill. He secured funding for the only major Western dam project of the last decade. All of this is just part of PETE DOMENICI's legacy.

Fortunately, the people of New Mexico will be able to get the whole story thanks to an effort that was recently announced at New Mexico State University to study PETE's impact on public policy and contributions to the State in 36 remarkable years of service in the Senate.

The people of New Mexico are not the only ones who are grateful for PETE's service. He may not know this, but PETE has a lot of fans in Kentucky. Back in the late 1990s, when Kentuckians were beginning to learn the extent of the environmental and health damage caused by the Paducah Gas-



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eous Diffusion Plant, PETE offered a helping hand. Whether it was appropriating funds for the cleanup, making sure workers were screened for lung cancer, or compensating those who had been wrongfully injured, Senator DOMENICI has been a reliable partner to me and a great friend to the people of Paducah every step of the way, and we are grateful for his help.

A record such as this is not easy to achieve in the Senate. It takes vision, hard work, patience, and an ability to cooperate with Members on both sides of the aisle. One mark of PETE's skills in working with Members of both sides is the praise he has received not only from local media but the national press as well. Here is what the *New York Times* had to say about PETE in 2001:

If Mr. DOMENICI sounds like a serious man, he is. A colleague once described him as having a case of terminal responsibility. He is not cut from the same bolt as most politicians.

Like most of us, PETE never could have done it alone. And he has not. Around the same time the minor league scouts noticed PETE, PETE noticed a young lady named Nancy Burk. And 50 years ago this year, PETE and Nancy were married. Fifty years of marriage is a remarkable achievement in itself, and it is well worth noting.

Apparently PETE and Nancy were both overachievers. Over the years, they raised eight children, which, of course, makes all the other accomplishments look a little less challenging.

They are a remarkable couple. They made the Senate a more friendly place. And I know my wife Elaine has enjoyed getting to know Nancy and working with her in the Senate Spouses Group.

The members of my staff are going to miss Uncle PETE a lot as well. They will miss his frequent visits and his stories about the old days and the way he lit up like a child whenever he talked about his faith, his children, his grandkids, and his beloved wife Nancy who, thanks to PETE's bragging, is known to everyone on my staff as a great cook.

They will miss his warmth, his good cheer, and his passion for the issues of the day. They will miss the same things that his colleagues will miss: an honest statesman and a good man who made all of us proud to be Members of the same institution as him.

Whenever PETE is reminded of all that he has done for the people of New Mexico and for our country, he always says the same thing: It is an honor. Now we, his colleagues in the

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Senate, say the same thing about the time we have spent working alongside this good man.

Senator DOMENICI, it has been an honor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, let me take a few moments to say what an absolutely outstanding privilege it has been for me, for 10 of the 12 years I have served in the Senate, to serve on the Energy Committee with Senator DOMENICI.

It is rare to see a person in public office who cares equally as deeply about his family and his children and his work. Sometimes families get pushed aside because of the work of men and women who think the work they do is somehow more important than raising their children. I have experienced struggling for that balance in my own life, watching my father struggle with that balance. Sitting on the committee watching Senator DOMENICI has been an inspiration to me, to watch him handle some of the biggest issues of our time, truly, over 36 years. He spoke about some of them—the budgets of the entire Congress, the nuclear renaissance in the country, major pieces of social legislation he has shepherded and nurtured and loved. But in between many of these discussions I have been privileged to have with him, he will stop in the middle of a conversation and talk about one of his children or one of his grandchildren. He is the father of eight. I am one of nine and the mother of two.

I just want to tell him, in these brief moments—and I am just going to speak for 2 or 3 minutes—what an inspiration he has been to me as a man who loves his wife and his children and his grandchildren so deeply and has managed to serve his State with such passion and grace and love for 36 years. And New Mexico is not a next-door kind of place. New Mexico is a long way from Washington, DC, but it has never been long from the Senator's heart.

The final thing I want to say is that, on behalf of the people of my State, I want the Senator from New Mexico to know we will be forever grateful for his leadership when it came to passing, for us, something in the nature of the Declaration of Independence. And I don't mean to belittle that document, but for the people of Louisiana, who for 60 years have struggled to try to find some way to preserve this great coast of ours and to save our communities, our culture, and our economic livelihood, this Senator stepped up, this Senator from New Mexico—not much water there—and his heart was with the people of Louisiana and the gulf coast. He and his wife flew over this great expanse of land, which

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has been under water now for quite some time with these storms in the last years, and he basically took the lead on establishing for us something that had eluded us for 60 years—since President Truman was the President of the United States. Senator DOMENICI changed the fortunes of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama by putting in a major piece of legislation that will establish a way for us to secure this coast.

So, Senator, I could speak for a long time—many more hours—about what you have done, but there are other Members much more senior to me and in your own party who wish to speak. I just wanted to lay down for the *Record* the comment to you—and I will submit a more formal statement for the *Record*—that the people of Louisiana whom I represent will be forever grateful for your leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am sorry to see PETE DOMENICI leave the Senate for a variety of reasons but one highly personal: He is reducing by 25 percent the number of Senators now serving who served with my father. Senator Byrd, Senator Kennedy, Senator Inouye, Senator Stevens, and Senator Biden all served with my father, as did Senator DOMENICI. Now he has told me that my father was never quite able to pronounce his name correctly, for which I apologize. I have learned how to do it so that the Bennett family is relieved of that particular problem.

This demonstrates a degree of continuity and a degree of dedication to the problems related to the West because New Mexico and Utah are neighboring States. We touch at one tiny point. It is the only point in the United States where four States come together. It is called the Four Corners, where four States, in a straight divide, come and touch each other. But New Mexico and Utah share many of the same problems, and as I have come to the Senate with the problems of the West and had to turn somewhere for a mentor to help guide me through those problems, I have turned to Senator DOMENICI. His advice has always been good, his help has always been available, and he has proven to be as good a friend to his western neighbors as he has been to his New Mexican constituents.

If the Senate seniority rule holds in place, I will succeed him as the ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. These are

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very big shoes to fill. In true DOMENICI style, instead of just waving goodbye and walking out the door, he has tucked me under his arm and taken me around to all of the national labs to make sure that these beloved institutions, which he has tended and funded and guided so carefully, got introduced to me under his tutelage and so that he made sure that I understood fully how important they were. In very kind and subtle ways, he made it clear to me that if I didn't stand up to the responsibility of keeping those national treasures alive, he would haunt me in one way or another. Now, I hope he does. I hope he is available for years to come for advice and counsel.

The other thing that has been referred to here, on which I have been delighted to join with him, is his crusade for insurance equality for the mentally disturbed. He and I both have some experience with that with members of our own families. We understand how important that is, and it has been easy to be a foot soldier in the ranks, with PETE DOMENICI leading the charge.

There is a phrase that has been used and vastly overused around these halls in Washington for a long time, but it applies accurately to PETE DOMENICI. He truly has been a national treasure, and we shall miss him but wish him well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Levin). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, what a privilege it has been for myself and many of my colleagues to sit here in the presence this afternoon to not hear a goodbye to the Senate, because the Senate, Senator DOMENICI, will always look up to you. You will be the model which young men and women coming to the Senate will wish to follow.

I don't know whether anyone can do what you have done throughout the Senate with greater feeling and sincerity. Mr. President, when Senator DOMENICI greets and visits with you, he always finishes that with "I love you, brother" or "I love you, sister."

God bless you and your family.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, if I may, I want to give my accolades to Senator DOMENICI, with whom I have worked on the Energy Committee since I came to the Senate, and also to wish him well in his days ahead. When I arrived in the

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Senate some 3½ years ago, he was one of the people who welcomed me here. He welcomed me here as the man from the Land of Enchantment, *la Tierra Encantada*, as we say in Spanish in New Mexico. He did so in large part because many of my family members are from the State of New Mexico. My family helped found the city of Santa Fe, the city of Holy Faith, now over 400 years ago.

During many times as I was growing up as a young man, and later on in my professional life, traveling in New Mexico, I would hear about the great Senator of New Mexico, the great PETE DOMENICI. Now, for the last 4 years it has been a tremendous privilege and personal honor for me to be able to serve with him.

I want to make two comments about him—first, in terms of the substance of the legislation that we have worked on together. We have passed three significant pieces of bipartisan energy legislation with him—in 2005, the Energy Policy Act of that year; again, we passed another energy package in 2006; and again in 2007. In the passage of those major pieces of legislation, it was Senator DOMENICI, working closely with his good friend, Senator Bingaman, who said that we could agree on things for the future of this country on this signature issue that is so important to our national security and to our economic prosperity. He brought us together to make sure that we would work on those things that we all agreed upon. That is why we were able to pass those very important pieces of legislation. I very much appreciate what he has done in that committee.

Second, as he and I have talked many times over the last several years, there are issues that are unique to the West, the issues of public lands, where much of our lands—for example, in my State of Colorado, 33 percent is owned by the Federal Government. It takes an understanding of those realities, of issues like payment in lieu of taxes, or how we deal with the mining law in the West, or how we make sure that the water issues of the West are protected, and how we recognize the compacts of our States as being important. For all those issues he has been a tremendous leader and an inspiration.

I will miss him dearly as a friend. He has been a dear friend. But I also will miss his leadership because on so many issues he has worked across the aisle. I appreciate his leadership as well in what he has done for mental health parity for the United States of America.

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There will be not hundreds of thousands, not millions, but hundreds of millions of Americans who will come to benefit from his leadership on the mental health parity issue. Also, the building blocks he has laid for us to try to take the moon shot that will get us energy independence. Those building blocks will remain in place for decades and for generations to come.

So I appreciate his leadership, and I appreciate his service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to thank my good friend, Senator Salazar, from the State of Colorado. I don't know what brought us together on our Energy Committee. Maybe it was a little bit of common language—we both spoke a little Spanish to each other, and it made us both understand and feel like we were friends. But we became that, we became friends rather quickly in his short 4 years.

I obviously remember your very first 6 months when we became friends and worked on many issues. I compliment you on your constant effort to work in a bipartisan way on issues. It is tough around here. It is going to have to move in that direction or we are going to continue to have trouble getting things done. For that, I hope you will stand your ground and at least keep trying.

I appreciate the kind words you said in my behalf. Let's hope we see each other frequently, if not in your State, in New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment.

Thank you very much, Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, these are one of the periods of our lives in the Senate we shall always remember. My good friend, the Senator from New Mexico, steps down and departs the floor. But you will be a Member of this decision-making body through the next few days, which will be critical when your vast experience will be brought to bear, as it will.

Mr. DOMENICI. Senator, I tell you, I said a little bit in my remarks a while ago about it. I get very excited and anxious because it takes too long. But that is the deliberative body. But we don't have a long time to give the Secretary of the Treasury the kind of authority he needs to fix a broken train.

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We have had a wreck—lots of wrecks. All the freeways are clogged. We have to take away the things that are clogging them. We could look at it as a freeway with cracked-up cars, but actually the assets that are piled up there are the toxic assets that have been accumulated by those banks. If you don't get them out of the way, the line continues growing because of the broken-down cars, the toxic assets. The running cars can run no more. They are stopped in place. They contain everything that has given us a decent life in America.

We have to fix that. I am going to be here. Let's hope our negotiators will put something together that the executive branch tells us will work and that the world accepts it with confidence. When we come off this floor, when we vote that in—whatever it is, Monday or whatever—we will join, you and I, with great confidence that we have once again done something important.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was present today in our group of Senators. When you spoke, you inspired them. We have got to rebuild the confidence in America. That is what underlies this decision. I also wish to say a few words about our dear friend from Colorado. I cannot altogether make these remarks without divulging I have a bias. I have visited that beautiful State many times. But my daughter makes her home there, together with my grandson, and the Senator from Colorado allowed my grandson to be an intern in his office. He served as an intern briefly in my office, both without pay to the taxpayers, I hasten to say, when I make these remarks.

But he has been a great friend. We have worked together on many things. He has dignity. But above all it is his enthusiasm and love for this institution. There is not a day when he walks on this floor, either to say to other Senators or to say it quietly to himself: How fortunate I am to be a Senator, to come here to represent the people of Colorado, to represent the people, as each Senator does, of the whole of the United States.

So as I step down, and others, we do so with a sense of confidence, behind us remain individuals like yourself and indeed the distinguished presiding officer who for 30 years, he and I have served together on the Armed Services Committee. He will remain on. The Senate will be in good hands with you and our other colleagues to carry on and solve the problems for this great Nation and indeed much of the world.

I yield the floor.

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ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators that appear in the *Congressional Record* be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion until Friday, November 21, 2008.

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

MONDAY, *September 29, 2008*

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, while the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] is on the floor, I want to, one, thank him for his characteristically lucid and honorable put-the-national-interest-first statement and also to say that I gather, this afternoon, colleagues will be coming to the floor to pay tribute to some who are not running again, as Senator DOMENICI is not running. I have to go to Connecticut to join my family for a celebration of Rosh Hashanah right after the vote, so I wish to take this moment to thank Senator DOMENICI for his extraordinary service and to say to him what an honor and a pleasure it has been. Sometimes it is an honor to work with some people but not a pleasure; sometimes it is a pleasure and not an honor. With you, it has been both.

You just spoke to our responsibility to our country in this economic crisis, and you spoke from your inner characteristically American core of optimism, that we have the best financial system in the world and we have every reason to be optimistic, but we are really in a crisis. To me, that is the kind of service you have given our country. And you are a characteristic American story because your family does not go back to the *Mayflower*, as we used to say in my family, like yours. Your family came from Italy to this country, and they gave you a love for this country, a confidence that if you worked hard and used the abilities God gave you, there was no limit to how far you could go.

Like so many others, you have served your country with extraordinary honor and effect across a wide range of subject areas. I think particularly of the great work you have done in trying to regularize and make orderly and efficient and responsible our budget process; from that kind of nuts-and-bolts dollars-and-cents to the passionate advocacy you have



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given for equal treatment in our insurance system for those who need assistance from our medical system for mental illness, to treat mental illness exactly as physical illness.

So, Senator DOMENICI, it has been an honor to serve with you. If I may get a little ethnic, which you and I usually do, I would say, in leaving the Senate this year, you are following in the footsteps of another great Italian-American hero whom I grew up admiring in a different field of endeavor, Rocky Marciano. Remember, Rocky retired undefeated, and you are too.

Mr. DOMENICI. It has always been a pleasure working with you and being with you, and I wish you the very best. I know you are heavily involved in another kind of campaign and you are doing something very difficult, and I know you must go through difficult times even though you are enthusiastic about what you are doing. That must be difficult because it is, in fact, very different, and you choose these situations and you handle them well.

I compliment you, wish you the very best, and hope after the Presidential election, whatever happens, you come back and have a very good life in the Senate.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank my friend.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, it is with mixed feelings of remorse and pleasure that I speak on the subject of the retirement from the Senate of my colleague and friend from New Mexico, PETE DOMENICI. He and his wife Nancy have been close and dear personal friends. When I was elected to serve in the Senate, they reached out to my wife Rose and me and made us feel at home and very comfortable in our new Senate environment. That was 30 years ago.

The Domenici family will surely be missed, but I know we will stay in touch. I wouldn't be surprised to get a call from PETE if he sees or hears about my not doing right on an issue he feels deeply about. He is not bashful, nor easily intimidated, and he is going to continue to be consulted for advice and counsel from time to time by me and others who respect him so highly and realize they would benefit from his good judgment and insight.

From public works to budget and energy, to appropriations, he has been a conspicuous and forceful advocate of public policy in the Senate committees. His contributions to public policy during the years of his service in the Senate are unsurpassed, and the genuineness of the respect in which he is held by his colleagues is unequalled. It has been a great

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honor to have served with PETE DOMENICI. I extend my sincere congratulations to him on his outstanding career in the Senate.

TUESDAY, *September 30, 2008*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a lot of people think they know Senator PETE DOMENICI. They know him as a man who has been a leader in the Senate for decades on energy issues, and he was the chairman of that committee, and on budget issues, and he has been the chairman of that committee. He is a man who has been a leader on the Appropriations Committee. I have known Senator DOMENICI in that regard, as have the American people, but what I think is so interesting about PETE DOMENICI is a side that a lot of people don't know about him. Here is a man who can talk about Wall Street, he can talk about financial markets, he can talk about the budgetary problems facing this country, but in a personal, private conversation, he can talk about baseball.

Here is a man who was a star athlete. He was a great baseball player. As a young man, he played American Legion Baseball. I played American Legion Baseball, but PETE's team was good. Mine wasn't so good. PETE led his team to the regional championship.

American Legion Baseball used to be the baseball for young men.

They did not have all the State tournaments they had in high schools, so in the summer, the best athletes would get together, the best baseball players would get together and play American Legion ball, and the winter regional championship was significant.

Senator DOMENICI went on to letter all 4 years, of course, in high school. He was a standout pitcher for the University of New Mexico, and he was All Conference. His final year he had a record of 14 and 3. That is quite a record. In those days, when Senator DOMENICI was in high school and college, they would play a lot of games, as they do now. A record of 14 and 3 is a very significant record.

But that was not the end of his career. He went on to play professional baseball. After college he played for the hometown crowd as a left-handed pitcher for the Albuquerque Dukes. I know he must have had a great fastball and a great curveball to accomplish what he did in baseball. But in the Senate, PETE DOMENICI does not throw curveballs, it is the

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high hard one all the time. He is a person who tells people how he feels.

With my longtime relationship with Senator DOMENICI, I only had one problem my entire career with him. That was a time when—I, frankly, do not remember whether I was the ranking member of the subcommittee or the chairman of the subcommittee because we went back and forth often. That was the Energy and Water Subcommittee of Appropriations.

As a relatively young Senator, I had a position of power, and I thought what I would do is go and talk to members of that conference and get the votes. I did it very quietly. I did not say a word to Senator DOMENICI. I surprised everybody. I called for a vote unexpectedly and I won. Senator DOMENICI did not say a word to me there publicly. Well, when that was over, we had a little heart-to-heart talk. He said, “We have to work together. If we are going to work together on this subcommittee, I want to tell you something about how we do things in the Senate. We do not surprise each other. If you had a problem with that issue, talk to me. If you have the votes, you do not need to try to embarrass me publicly, you go ahead and do what you need to do.”

I learned a great lesson there. I learned a lesson that can only come by someone teaching you, such as when I practiced law. It is not pleasant to talk about, but you learn from your mistakes in the practice of law. When you make a mistake, you never do that again. As a result of the teaching moment I had with Senator DOMENICI, I never, ever, did that again. So I appreciate, if for no other reason than that, that one experience with PETE DOMENICI. It made me a better Senator and a better person.

It was very clear that when Senator DOMENICI realized he would not be playing for the New York Yankees, even though he was a good athlete, he decided he would become a teacher. Then he went to law school, and after graduating, PETE DOMENICI entered politics. First, he was elected to the city commission in Albuquerque. Then he climbed up that ladder of local politics and became mayor of Albuquerque and was elected in 1972 as a young man to the Senate.

My relationship with Senator DOMENICI began, my first experience coming to the Senate, in 1986. I was very fortunate that year. I was a brand-new Senator. I got on the Appropriations Committee. As we now know, Senators wait a long time to get on that committee. I was so fortunate that Barbara Mikulski and Harry Reid, two brand-new Senators,

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were placed on that committee. From that day, I got to know PETE DOMENICI.

My experience on the Appropriations Committee goes back to the day that John Stennis, the Senator from Mississippi, was chairman of that committee. By the time I got to the Senate, he was in very frail health. He had been shot in a robbery, he had lost a leg, he had cancer. So he was very weak.

His chief of staff was a man by the name of Frank Sullivan. He had been chief of staff of the Armed Services Committee and then the Appropriations Committee. And he called me. After I met Senator Stennis, he called me in his office and said to me, "Senator Reid, you got on the best committee in the entire Senate." He said, "You can do a lot of good things for your State, but do not be greedy."

That was a real good lesson for me. I have always tried to follow that. Senator DOMENICI has been someone I have worked with on that committee. I did not immediately get on the Energy and Water Subcommittee. It takes awhile to get on that. That is one of the most sought after subcommittees you can get on in the appropriations process.

I worked with PETE DOMENICI since the first day I have been in the Senate but on a very close basis from the time I got on that subcommittee. So we worked together on that Energy and Water Subcommittee for 22 years. Some of these years PETE was the chairman, as I indicated, or I was the ranking member, and other years it was the reverse.

But, frankly, for the two of us, it did not matter which party controlled the Chamber. We continued to work for the people of Nevada and New Mexico and the country on a bipartisan basis. We have traveled the country. We have gone to some of the labs that are so necessary for our country's science—Livermore—and the great facilities we have in New Mexico—Sandia. I can remember going there so clearly. It was a wonderful experience. The two labs in New Mexico are among the best. We also traveled to a facility we fund in Missouri.

Anyway, we have done a lot of things together over the years. In addition to that, because of the relationship of the spouses, his wonderful wife Nancy and my wife Landra, have become very good friends. They are very small people physically but big people in other ways. They are both generous, thoughtful, kind wives, mothers, and good people. They have done a great job of raising our children, and they have many

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conversations about the good and the bad, as all families have in raising their children.

PETE DOMENICI is now the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of his State, New Mexico. But longevity does not tell the story of PETE DOMENICI's legacy. He has established himself as one of America's premier leaders on energy policy, national security, scientific research. While I talk about national security, one of the things I am very satisfied—I do not want to use the word “proud”—satisfied that PETE DOMENICI and I worked together on was the safety and security of our nuclear arsenal.

Now, you cannot put these nuclear weapons we have in some storage facility and leave them alone. There must be a way of making sure they are safe and reliable. We worked for years to accomplish that goal, and we have been successful.

PETE DOMENICI has been one of the leaders on scientific research because of his work on the national labs and fighting nuclear proliferation. He has been to the Nevada test site, 90 miles outside Las Vegas, on a number of occasions. He has worked hard to ensure the competitiveness of American workers in the global marketplace.

We hope within the next—before this year ends, that we can pass the legislation—we have done it here, it has not made it through the House—that we can pass the legislation he and Senator Wellstone started working on more than 10 years ago. It is no secret that these two great individuals, wonderful Senators, did it because they had experience in their own families, problems with mental illness.

As a result of that, they became the experts, the leading advocates to do something about mental health parity in our country. If we eliminate the work he has done on scientific research, national security proliferation, competitiveness, eliminate all that, if he had not done that and all he had done is lead us on the road to mental health parity, that would have been enough to have a very successful career.

But for the millions of Americans who suffer from mental illness, PETE DOMENICI is the hero. He has joined Senator Kennedy, as I have indicated, the late Senator Wellstone, as national champions on issues related to mental health.

So I would hope that one of the last things we do during the year, that will be the end of his great Senate career, is figure out a way to make sure we get this legislation passed. Senator DOMENICI made his farewell remarks this past Saturday. He described himself as nearly incapable of sitting

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still in a crisis. With these years of service to New Mexico and our country, that description fits him perfectly.

PETE and Nancy have eight wonderful children.

Now, how can I describe in my words how I feel about PETE DOMENICI leaving? I guess we should, as Dr. Seuss said, "... not cry before it's over, smile because it happened."

That certainly applies to our relationship. Don't cry before it is over, even though there are times when you would like to shed a tear, smile because it happened.

No distance or place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of his work. I am persuaded of the work of my friend, PETE DOMENICI.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to say thank you to the distinguished majority leader for his kind words about my service in the Senate with him and my service in the Senate generally. I wish to say you have been far too generous in your words. I accept them and appreciate them abundantly.

I also wish to correct one slight error. I was a right-hander, not a left-hander. But that is all right. Everything else you said was correct.

Mr. REID. I have described him as left handed all the time I have known him because I did not think we had two right-handed pitchers. I thought Bunning was the only right-hander.

Mr. DOMENICI. My pitch was a very gifted one. I was right handed, but the ball broke automatically as if I was pitching left handed. So you were close. When you have a right-handed pitcher who throws a certain kind of fastball that breaks into the right-handed batter, that is the screwball. You go to a lot of trouble throwing a screwball; but mine, I did not have to go to a lot of trouble, it did it anyway. I wish there were things around here that worked that way, that you did not have to work so hard to make something happen. But you have to work here.

It has been my pleasure to work on many measures, so people will know it is not just talk when you say you work in a bipartisan manner—on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, a strange-sounding title. We have had the task of maintaining the safety of the nuclear arsenal. We were given a brand-new approach, this Senator

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and I, to saving and securing our arsenal without testing for the first time.

So we inherited a job of seeing that nuclear weapons were safe, and we were no longer going to test them as we had from their inception. We were given a concept called science-based stockpile stewardship. Remember those words, Leader? For a long time we had trouble saying them, science-based stockpile stewardship.

That meant we were going to use a scientific manner of assessing what was going on inside a nuclear weapon as it matured. We had put together a plan, paid for it, and it took a long time. Every national laboratory had to have something, as you recall, some piece of this project. We are not yet finished with the biggest piece, which is in California, at the laboratory there, a gigantic laser facility, multilaser facility that will look inside nuclear weapons and see that they are safe.

But I give you this one example: Two Senators did that. No audiences. No television. They were all welcome. It was open. But we went about our business. As we moved along, nobody could tell who was chairman and who was ranking member. It was a pleasure. I could count on you and you could count on me. I do not think we ever once deceived each other.

Your story about my getting perturbed at you was slightly different than it was. You were ranking member and you went to the Republican side and got a proxy. What I told you was to never do that again. When you get a proxy from a Republican on my side, you have to tell me. And you were very apologetic and found out that I was telling you right. We never had another word. We never had another situation where proxies got mixed up. Republican proxies were sought after by the Republican person. If you couldn't get them, you would go somewhere else. But we had to have an open hand there and tell each other what was going on. That is the way we did it. We told each other the truth. With the truth came great things from that subcommittee on which we were totally bipartisan.

We had kept the nuclear arsenal safe enough where those who ran the three laboratories could tell the President every year that the U.S. nuclear arsenal was safe and sound. They must do that as a matter of law, you recall.

I say thank you. I close and say I, too, am sorry about leaving. You indicated something about sadness, but I am

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hopeful things will be all right with me, and certainly the Senate will have to continue to be a great place.

As we close, we had this one dialog this morning, and I have the chance, before my distinguished Republicans waiting to speak, just to say I hope with all the strength of my being that we can put together a package that will gather the votes in the House and Senate to put this plan, this recovery plan, in place so we are not going to suffer irreparable harm for the people by the financial markets falling apart.

I am so sorry we got started with this concept of calling it a bailout. There is nothing to bail out. We are buying assets that are stopping up the system. I don't know how that got to be a bailout. You buy them and you own something and you sell it later. If you don't buy it, the entire system behind those bad assets, which were stuffed into the system over a number of years because we sold mortgages that were not good mortgages—I wish the people could understand that we are not bailing out Wall Street. We are not bailing out anything. We are trying to make sure the American financial markets in your own backyard—your bank, your savings and loan, all the other things, your payroll checks—are going to function under this very fabulous American financial system which has some very big kinks in it now. It won't work. We have to make it work.

Again, I thank the majority leader for his comments.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, while both the majority leader and Senator DOMENICI are here, I want to say I appreciate the opening remarks of the majority leader today. It is precisely that tone of necessity and bipartisanship that will enable us to achieve the result to which Senator DOMENICI referred. I hope to continue in that same vein with some comments I will make in a moment.

If I could turn to Senator DOMENICI, the majority leader pointed out several of the things that have been commented upon before regarding Senator DOMENICI's leadership. I want to focus on two other things briefly. The majority leader spoke to his leadership on matters relating to the preservation of our great national laboratory assets, two of which are located in New Mexico. He referred to Senator DOMENICI's leadership on mental health reform, on nuclear power; that is to say, our production of electricity on which Senator DOMENICI has worked so hard. I don't recall if he mentioned



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all of the budget reform that Senator DOMENICI put in when he was chairman of the committee, but we are certainly all aware of that.

I would like to briefly mention two others, to express appreciation to Senator DOMENICI for his help in achieving one of the landmark Indian water settlements in the history of the country related to Arizona a couple of years ago. Without his help, that wouldn't have been possible. And I want to indicate something that probably not a lot of folks are aware of, but people in New Mexico will become aware of, that Senator DOMENICI has worked hard to lay the foundation for an equally historic water settlement for New Mexico. Unfortunately, that will not be completed before the end of Senator DOMENICI's service, but it will not be completed without the foundation he helped to lay.

Finally, something that has happened recently that only his Republican colleagues would be familiar with, but in these last several weeks in which we have confronted this financial crisis, several leaders have risen to accept the challenge of leadership. Senator DOMENICI is one of those. Perhaps because he had been here a long time, had the respect of his colleagues, always spoke thoughtfully on these issues, it would be expected that he would perhaps rise to that leadership role. I know in our Republican conference during the meetings we have had to discuss this, and others, it was frequently the case that Senator DOMENICI stood and thoughtfully and quietly expressed the words that only very respected leaders can speak. He did that on one occasion to bridge a gap between two groups of Republicans, to compliment one group and to demonstrate how we all could work together to restore confidence to our markets. He has done that subsequently in a thoughtful and, I even suggest, profound way.

I have heard Senator DOMENICI speak eloquently before, but I have never heard him speak more eloquently than when he has been addressing this crisis. It allows us to return to the proposition that as this great Senator nears the end of his service in the Senate for the people of New Mexico and the people of America, he is joining together in a bipartisan way to work on a problem of great significance to the people. He has done everything he can.

I know when he leaves, he will be able to say he did everything he could do—and he did it well. I appreciate his service. I have appreciated the personal relationship we have had, the friendship we have had, his assistance to me. I

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know that will continue even though he and Nancy will not be here in the Senate. But we will be close, since we are neighbors in the great Southwest. I join the remarks of the distinguished majority leader and compliment my friend for his years of service to the people of this country.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I once again thank my friend from Arizona. He has given me far too much credit, but I appreciate it. . . .

Mr. DODD. . . . The last Member I want to talk about is PETE DOMENICI with whom I have had the privilege of working on so many issues over the years. In fact, only a few weeks ago I was honored to be asked to come and speak on behalf of PETE DOMENICI in Las Cruces at New Mexico State University where the Center for Public Policy is named for PETE DOMENICI. It was quite a gathering at which I was the keynote speaker, where PETE was being recognized for his contribution to the State and our country.

Jim Baker, former Secretary of State, spoke at the conference as well over that weekend. It was quite a gathering of people from that State to express their appreciation for PETE's 36 years of serving the people of his home State. Again, a legislative record that is clear and almost without peer in many ways.

Because of PETE DOMENICI our country will soon recognize that mental illness is as serious as any physical illness. He, Ted Kennedy, and Paul Wellstone were so pivotal in making us all aware of how important this issue is. Without PETE's leadership, I don't think this would have happened. Without PETE going to his colleagues and saying, "Let me tell you about my family"—he had the courage to talk about his own family and what they have been through—it has made a difference. Today millions of people will benefit as a result of PETE's leadership on an issue that is going to make a difference in their lives. Because of PETE's leadership, candidates for President in both parties now acknowledge that we have to be serious about doing something about global warming; again, serious about reducing our emissions, ending our dependence on oil.

Again, John Warner and PETE DOMENICI are classic examples of people who step out of what you might normally associate them with on an issue and get involved and make a difference, almost overnight, because they said this is worthy of

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our attention and certainly serious, so serious that it demands action.

Thanks to PETE's relentless vigilance, I am confident that safe and secure nuclear energy, which I happen to be a supporter of as well, will play a large role in helping us address one of our largest problems in the years ahead. Because of PETE, last year over 5 million children in 51 counties studied what character means in the classroom. PETE and I are the authors of that idea. It started out as a small idea in his State and my State, to insist that part of the day, on the athletic fields, in classes—not just for some 15 minutes—students embrace one of the six pillars of great character and make it a part of the seamless garment of a classroom.

Today, as I say, in 51 counties, as well as in virtually almost every State, Character Counts is there, to help children learn early on the importance of what honesty and integrity mean, among the other pillars of good character.

Yet when we talk about PETE and what he has accomplished for our communities and our country, we would be doing a great disservice if we were to sum up his legacy as some series of issues. My affection for these Members I am talking about transcends the substantive issues which they have championed over the years. It goes deeper than that.

PETE's contribution to the Senate will be measured in a volume of bills he introduced with a number of votes he took; some 13,000, by the way, for which I think there are only 8 or 10 Senators who have a similar record.

But PETE DOMENICI is much more than that. Long before he was a Senator, PETE was a wonderful father and husband. He grew up in a remarkable family, an immigrant family to our country—the classic American story. Many of our fellow colleagues can tell similar tales of how they arrived in this great Nation of ours and the contributions they have made.

Long before he dreamed of becoming chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, PETE was a boy counting pennies at his father's grocery business in New Mexico. So often all we hear about politicians is negativity—and it breeds cynicism, too much, frankly. But in my experience, the most effective legislators have remarkable strength and an inner confidence. That is PETE DOMENICI in so many ways.

You only need to know his wife Nancy, whom Jackie and I have gotten to know—they are neighbors of ours on Capitol Hill. We have had wonderful dinners together on Sunday nights, with PETE doing some of the cooking, and Nancy, I

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suspect, doing most of it, but PETE taking credit for most of it, as we would gather and have wonderful family gatherings, as they would embrace and cherish the new arrivals of my family, my two daughters. So we are losing not just a colleague but a neighbor and a friend and a person I care deeply about.

Together, these two people, Nancy and PETE, have raised eight wonderful children. As one of six myself, their house reminds me so much of growing up in my own house—kids, very independent thinkers, all challenging their parents on every imaginable subject matter, and then going out the door and parroting their parents' positions on every issue—the parents never to appreciate the fact that their words were actually carrying the day. It can be messy in those households, but it is never boring, and certainly never so in the Domenici household as well.

That is why there is one legislative accomplishment that best captures PETE DOMENICI, and that is the Character Counts bill that we started together in 1994. Character Counts was founded on a simple notion: that core ethical values are not just important to us as individuals, they form the foundation of a democratic society as well.

Values like trustworthiness and respect, responsibility and fairness, caring and citizenship are at the core of who PETE is as a human being. Despite the fact that it was PETE's own family, heritage, and faith that taught him character's importance—his mother and father, the nuns in his Catholic school—he recognized something that too often gets lost today: that in a society that celebrates our differences—our heritage, our personal interests as individuals—character is the one thing that transcends them, whether they be cultural, religious, economic, or social.

Somewhere along the way we lost that as a country. We forgot how important character is to the strength of our families, our communities, our institutions, and who we are as individuals.

Quite frankly, when PETE retires at the end of this year, in a matter of days now, I am worried we will be losing a piece of that from the institution in which he and I serve—the value that he has brought on this subject matter and so many others.

So let me say thanks to PETE for his warmth and friendship, and I wish him and Nancy the very best in the years to come. He is a remarkable individual and one who will make a difference in whatever he decides to do with the re-

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mainder of his life. I thank him for all of his contributions, and I look forward to seeing him and Nancy as often as we can in the years to come.

Mr. DURBIN. PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico has been an institution in the Senate for many years. It has been a pleasure to serve with him for 12. I once visited New Mexico and went to a roadside stand where they sell these Christmas wreaths made out of chili peppers. There was a Mexican-American lady. I started to buy the Christmas wreath to take home to my family, and I said to her, "So I understand you have a Senator in this State named DOMENICI." "Oh, I love PETE DOMENICI," she said, and went on and on about what a great man he was, how much she liked him. She said, "You know, I am a Democrat, but I am a DOMENICI Democrat. I always voted for PETE. I think he is a good man."

He is a good man. He and his wife Nancy have raised a good family. He has done so many things. He feels passionate about so many issues, but the one I wish to particularly credit him for leadership on is the issue of mental health parity.

He and Paul Wellstone stood up on that issue when nobody else would. Paul passed away 6 years ago in a plane crash. We have continued to find a way to pass that bill. We still have a chance in the closing hours of this session, and I hope we do.

In a magnanimous gesture, PETE came forward and said this should be known as the Wellstone-Domenici bill; Paul Wellstone deserves top billing on it. I am glad he did that. It showed character and the kind of man he is. We need to pass that bill before we go home, not just for PETE DOMENICI and the memory of Paul Wellstone but for the millions of people across America counting on us to make sure victims of mental illness are given fair treatment under hospitalization policies across this Nation. He certainly deserves it. . . .

Those Senators leaving our ranks leave positive memories for this Senator from Illinois. The fact that I have been able to serve with them, know them, and count them as friends, I count as one of the real blessings of my service in the Senate.

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WEDNESDAY, *October 1, 2008*

Mr. BOND. . . . Mr. President, I want to say that the passing of the mental health parity bill will be a great tribute to a wonderful friend, PETE DOMENICI, a true icon. He has been a longtime champion of this issue, and this will be a great testament to his leadership.

I worked with PETE on the Budget Committee. I say thanks, PETE, for making me take all the tough votes. It was ugly but necessary, just like the financial rescue package.

He is most recognized for his work on energy. I am very proud to have supported him in his efforts over many years to develop an abundant energy resource, long before \$4 gasoline brought the issue home to every American.

Just as important to me, I will miss the great friendship of a wonderful man, PETE DOMENICI, and his magnificent wife Nancy.

PETE is known for his devotion to his friends and family—to his wife Nancy of 50 years and their eight children.

PETE is also known for his devotion and dedication to New Mexico.

Born and raised in New Mexico, PETE has served his State in the U.S. Senate now for 36 years—making him the most senior Senator New Mexico has ever had.

PETE has also earned the title as the only Republican to ever be elected by New Mexico for a 6-year Senate term—in a State not known to lean Republican.

PETE's contributions to his State are well known to his constituents in New Mexico—whether it is fighting for solutions to the State's water crisis, supporting New Mexico schools, or ensuring New Mexico gets their fair share of tax dollars.

PETE's contributions to our Nation are also well known. He understands the importance of keeping America as a leader in science and technology and has worked for improvements to the math and science education our schoolchildren need to succeed.

PETE has also fought passionately for fiscal responsibility to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and curbing nuclear proliferation to keep our communities safe.

In recent years, PETE has used his role as chairman or ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to fight for our Nation's energy security.

PETE worked across the aisle to pass the first comprehensive energy legislation since 1992. Because of PETE and the

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bill he got through Congress, our Nation began investing in our own energy sources. This bill provided incentives to expand the production of energy from wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass sources to promote cleaner alternative sources of energy.

PETE also ensured that this bill promoted research and development of hydrogen and fuel-cell technology.

PETE didn't end the fight for our Nation's energy independence in 2005 though. Since that time, he has been a leader in the Senate calling for more action.

Before the gas price crisis that is now affecting families across the country, PETE sounded the alarm. He has called for bringing relief to families struggling with pain at the pump by tapping our own domestic supplies of gas and oil.

PETE has proposed the commonsense proposal—the Gas Price Reduction Act—to end our Nation's energy crisis.

It is this foresight, this leadership, and this passion to making our Nation a better place and for making our communities better for our families that will make PETE DOMENICI missed by all—Republicans and Democrats alike.

Mr. President, I thank the chair and yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today, as one of those who made the weighty decision not to seek reelection, to share my most personal thoughts—tributes—to my esteemed colleagues who will quietly, humbly, and with a deep sense of gratitude to their States, to our Nation, bring to a conclusion their public service as U.S. Senators.

This is a diverse group of Senators. Whether we hail from small farms, small cities or, in my case, from major metropolitan areas, we bring different backgrounds, different interests. That diversity gives the Senate its strength to serve equally all Americans. What we share, however, is an unwavering love for our States, our country and for the institution of the U.S. Senate.

We aspire to Winston Churchill's quote: "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

It has been my privilege, over my 30 years in the Senate, to serve with a total of 261 Members. Each, almost, shall be remembered as a friend.

I want to say a few special, heartfelt words about Senator PETE DOMENICI.

I first came to know PETE DOMENICI when I arrived in the Senate in 1979. He beat me here by 6 years, and now has served New Mexico with distinction for 36 years. PETE is a veritable renaissance man: baseball player, math teacher,

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lawyer, city commissioner, Senator and, most important, a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Senator DOMENICI made his mark with his leadership on fiscal and energy issues, especially with his influence in promoting clean, carbon-free, nuclear energy and moving America forward now that we have the reality of an energy shortage and a mission to lessen America's dependence on imported energy. America must move forward by increasing and enhancing its capability to develop nuclear powerplants. At one time in my career, I was privileged to be Secretary of the Navy, and during that period, America had, either at sea or in port, some 70-plus naval vessels powered by nuclear plants, and we had a safety record second to none. That can, and will, be duplicated with our growing domestic programs.

A hallmark of my dear friend PETE, whom we sometimes call a "grizzly old cuss," is how he so often expresses his feelings for his fellow Senators by saying, "I love you, brother." PETE, we return that deep respect and affection. . . .

I am proud to say I have come to know each of these fine men. And I firmly believe that this is but yet another beginning in all of our lives, for, to quote Churchill again, "the chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time."

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, there are a number of distinguished Senators who are leaving this body this year. I know there have been a number of tributes given to all of them and their service. . . .

There is one particular Senator with whom I have spent more time than the others just because of committee assignments, and that is PETE DOMENICI. PETE is the ranking member on our Energy Committee. I have loved listening to his many insights. He has with him Frank and Scott who, hopefully, will stay with us and who, together as a group, I think have offered wise counsel to all of us on that committee.

There is something about PETE, though. His kindness and his encouragement to me as a person have been most unique. As Chairman Dodd mentioned earlier, I am one of the most junior Members here, but PETE has constantly encouraged me to step out, to make my positions known, to go ahead and forget the fact that I am positioned where I am here in the Senate and to take on a leadership role where it is important for me to do so. There is a special place in my heart for people such as PETE DOMENICI who encourage all of us to step out and to try to exercise our full potential.



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I will miss him greatly. I know he loves this body. I know that in many ways he will be lost as he leaves this body. But I want to assure him today that as he leaves, this is one Senator he has encouraged, he has caused to be a better person, and PETE DOMENICI will always be a part of the Senate service I offer in this body. So I wish him well. I wish the others well.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to PETE DOMENICI, one of the finest Senators I have known and one who represents the Senate at its best. Senator DOMENICI is someone whom I respect greatly and whose counsel I have very much appreciated over the years. I will miss him very much when he retires at the end of this session.

Senator DOMENICI and I share many interests, but one above all is our deep and abiding interest in the fiscal affairs of our Nation. In the world of budgeting, Senator DOMENICI is a giant. He is, of course, one of the pioneers on the Budget Committee. He joined the committee in 1975, literally a few months after it was created in July 1974. So he was there at the beginning, helping to shape and guide this new committee.

He rose to become chairman in 1981, and he served in that capacity through 1987 and then again between 1995 and 2001. In 2001, we faced the unique circumstance in a closely divided Senate, as he and I traded off being chairman and ranking member in that year. In total, Senator DOMENICI has served 34 years on the committee, 12 years as chairman and 10 years as ranking member—the most distinguished record of any Member.

His impact on the Federal budget and the budget process has been unprecedented. He authored many of the Senate's budget rules that we use today to protect taxpayers. He also helped author major deficit-reduction plans during the 1980s and 1990s, as well as the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 and the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

But Senator DOMENICI will be remembered for more than his service on the Budget Committee. He has been a strong and important voice on the need to diversify our Nation's energy sources. As chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he helped enact the Energy Policy Act of 2005. He has been a passionate advocate on the issue of mental health and has been a leader in pushing for mental health parity legislation. Senator DOMENICI was also one of the architects of the Human Genome Project, which I believe

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people will look back on as one of the greatest accomplishments of all time.

And, of course, Senator DOMENICI has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the citizens of the beautiful State of New Mexico. Born in Albuquerque, he is that State's longest serving Senator. As a young man, PETE DOMENICI had many options. At one time, he pitched for the Albuquerque Dukes, a farm team for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and may have had aspirations of going to the major leagues. But I am sure that the citizens of New Mexico—and, indeed, all of us—are happy that he chose the path of public service.

Let me conclude by saying, and I know that I speak for all of my colleagues, how much we respect, admire, and appreciate his service. For me personally, it has been an absolute honor to serve along with him on the Budget Committee. He has made an extraordinary contribution to the work of the Budget Committee, to the Congress, and to the country. We will miss him greatly.

THURSDAY, *October 2, 2008*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize and pay tribute to several colleagues who are concluding distinguished careers in the Senate. These gentlemen have distinguished themselves. They have dedicated themselves to representing their States and representing the best interests of the Nation.

Senator PETE DOMENICI is an individual who has worked many years to strengthen our country in so many different ways. He has been a key member of the Committee on Energy and Water, and he has been a key member of the Appropriations Committee and the Budget Committee.

He was first elected to the Senate in 1972—36 years of outstanding service to the Nation and to his State of New Mexico.

He will be remembered for many things but particularly for his unswerving commitment to mental health parity in the health care system. It is fitting that legislation we passed will bear his name, along with that of Senator Paul Wellstone. Senator DOMENICI's advocacy for those with mental illness, his understanding of these issues in a profoundly personal way, accounted for the momentum and ultimately the success of the legislation. I commend him and thank him for his service. . . .

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To these Members, I wish them well. I thank them personally for their kindness to me and their thoughtfulness on so many other occasions.

Mr. ALLARD. I wish to mention some of the committee chairmen I have had an opportunity to work with. One of the committees I was successful in getting on was the Budget Committee with PETE DOMENICI as chairman, and then Judd Gregg following him, and now we have Senator Kent Conrad. All of these chairmen have been very gracious and helpful in working with me on issues. . . .

I wish to say a few things about those people who are retiring, starting with Senator PETE DOMENICI, who I mentioned was my chairman on the Budget Committee. I have worked with him also on the Appropriations Committee. I worked with him on energy issues and issues that are common to New Mexico and the State of Colorado. His service here in the Senate has been remarkable and dedicated. The West has been blessed that we have had such a good spokesman as Senator DOMENICI out there, carrying many of the issues that are important to his neighboring States, as well as New Mexico. The institution will miss him. I am sure New Mexico will miss him. I consider it an honor and a pleasure to have served with him.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I would like to begin my remarks this afternoon acknowledging four of our colleagues who will be leaving the Senate along with me at the end of this Congress, the 110th Congress, and then make some additional comments.

Mr. President, this body will lose two of the most respected, highly regarded consensus builders in the history of this body. I speak of the senior Senator from New Mexico, Mr. DOMENICI, and the senior Senator from Virginia, Mr. Warner. Between the two of these distinguished national leaders, they have given the Senate and this country 70 years of service.

Most Americans are aware of Senators DOMENICI and Warner and the contributions they have made. Those of us who have had the privilege of serving with these two individuals know what they have meant to our country. They have been role models, leaders, men of conscience, of vision, of integrity, of courage. And all of those most-valued human characteristics have been evident when America has needed them most.

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For their voice and their courage and their vision, we thank them. For the kind of men they are, and the Senators they have been, we thank them. We are all much enriched by our association with Senators Warner and DOMENICI, and this country will miss them greatly.

But they leave strong legacies. They leave men and women who have been touched by their leadership and their values who will carry on behind them, emulating their leadership and their vision. . . .

Senator Craig, Senator Allard, Senator Warner, and Senator DOMENICI all leave the Senate a better institution for their service.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, after six distinguished terms in the U.S. Senate, PETE DOMENICI is retiring. I am certain that this change of pace is a challenge in itself for a man who has over the years impressed all of us with his energy and drive and decency.

I have had the privilege of serving with PETE DOMENICI on the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, and working with him on that committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. I have seen and long respected Senator DOMENICI's expertise on energy policy; his depth of knowledge in that area has made him a steady voice through many challenges and will be very much missed by his colleagues. The Senate is also losing his great depth of experience on the budget process.

PETE DOMENICI has also earned bipartisan admiration for his extensive work on mental health issues, including his leadership to pass the bipartisan Mental Health Parity Act. I know that mental health issues are very personal to Senator DOMENICI and his family; his firsthand insights have contributed significantly to congressional efforts to improve mental health care in America.

I wish PETE DOMENICI and his wife Nancy all the best as they enjoy life after the Senate.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the Senate will be a different place when Senator DOMENICI departs at the end of this session. I say that as a colleague and as a neighbor in the great Southwest.

Senator DOMENICI has served in this body for six terms, longer than any Senator in the history of New Mexico. Judging from the energy that he has displayed during the past months, he could serve another; but he has decided to retire, and it is well deserved.

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During his time in the Senate, Senator DOMENICI has been involved in some of the most difficult issues to confront the body. Recently, he has spoken eloquently about the financial stabilization plan the Senate just passed; and earlier in the summer, he was one of the more vocal advocates of securing this Nation's energy future. Of course, he has long supported reducing the country's dependence on foreign sources of energy, but this summer he addressed the issue with renewed vigor.

Senator DOMENICI has been of great help to his neighbors in Arizona. Without his assistance, we would not have an Arizona Water Settlements Act, one of the landmark settlements in the history of the country. He has also been working hard on a water settlement for New Mexico. It won't be completed before he leaves the Senate, but Senator DOMENICI has been instrumental in getting the settlement as far as it has.

Senator DOMENICI should also be proud that legislation he has worked on for some time now is poised for passage. Mental health parity has long been a priority for Senator DOMENICI, and it appears he will be able to add it to his long list of accomplishments in the Senate.

When a Senator has served as long as Senator DOMENICI, it is difficult to imagine the Senate without him. My Senate colleagues and I will miss PETE and Nancy, and we will remember his legacy of leadership and years of distinguished service to the Nation.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, one of the lessons of our history is that America is not great because our leaders were somehow superhuman, but because regular people enjoy extraordinary freedom and use it to pursue ideals beyond their individual concerns. Senator PETE DOMENICI is a wonderful example of this unique brand of American greatness, and as he completes his service to the Senate, I wanted to take a few minutes of the Senate's time to honor him and thank him.

PETE DOMENICI was born to Italian immigrants during the Great Depression in Albuquerque, NM, which was a long cultural distance from Washington, DC. He worked in his family grocery businesses and played for a farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers, which is enough to endear him to me right there. He became a junior high math teacher and then earned a law degree.

He served in local government for 6 years before his first election to the Senate in 1972. And he has served six full

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terms in the Senate, which is amazing in and of itself. But what is perhaps most amazing is he has remained the regular person he was brought up to be in Albuquerque and has always applied his commonsense values to the most complex national problems.

Senator DOMENICI has been a stalwart in the difficult job of trying to curb Washington's seemingly endless appetite for more spending. Politics tends to be a business in which all the rewards flow to those who say "yes." But for the sake of the taxpayers and children and grandchildren of ours who cannot yet speak, PETE DOMENICI has been willing to say "no" to more spending in order to say "yes" to their economic future.

Senator DOMENICI has made a tremendous contribution to the advancement of science by focusing resources and efforts to understand the human brain. For decades from now, a wide spectrum of discoveries and therapies to improve human life will come out of his insistence on progress of the basic science of brain research. It has been a great privilege to work with him closely on his signature issue for the last several years: mental health parity. His tireless commitment to ending insurance discrimination, and willingness to share his own family's struggles, have broken down barriers to treatment and brought hope to millions of Americans living with mental illness.

The legislative process has regrettably become more divisive and partisan over the last decade, but through it all Senator DOMENICI has been a role model of civility, diligence, and goodwill. The Senate was built to achieve consensus on the great issues of the day, and PETE DOMENICI was always focused on what we could get done, rather than on who got the credit.

His ability and willingness to find consensus and produce legislation the American people need has been showcased by his 30 years of service on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It is a testament to his abilities that as either chairman or ranking member, PETE DOMENICI has guided three energy bills into law in the last 3 years: the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. PETE found a way to cut through a tough, partisan climate in the Senate to address our dependence on foreign oil.

Personally he has been a connecting point for me with the great compromisers and policy experts of the Senate's recent

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past. And he has always reminded me that we are not Senators who happen to be people; we are people who happen to be Senators for a time, and we need to nurture the roots of faith, family, and friendship that give us life.

PETE DOMENICI is a great American success story, and it has been an honor and privilege to serve with him in Washington. His influence on me will continue long after he has left this body.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, at the risk of embarrassing him, I want to take a moment to say how vital Senator DOMENICI has been in solving most of the nuclear puzzle. He really led the rebirth of the nuclear industry and I want to say how much I will miss him since he has been a prime mover in the effort to bring about a new nuclear age in this country.

As most of you know Senator DOMENICI has served 36 years in the Senate. But some of you may not know that he gave up a promising career in baseball to become a public servant. He started playing when he was 10, eventually pitching for a minor league team called the Albuquerque Dukes. But he left baseball to become a math and science teacher at Garfield Junior High in his native State of New Mexico, later went onto law school and ran for the U.S. Senate in 1972. And he's been here ever since.

About a dozen years ago the Senator realized that this Nation desperately needed a new source of electricity. He realized that there are higher uses for high-priced natural gas than to burn it for power generation, and that until carbon capture and storage can be perfected and widely practiced that the expansion of coal-fired power might have environmental drawbacks. So he crafted the forerunner of policies that today make up the Nuclear Power 2010 Program, which is designed to have the government partner with industry to approve the design and speed the licensing of the next generation of power plants that absolutely preclude the type of radiation accident that happened three decades ago at Three Mile Island.

He has been the sponsor of the loan guarantees, the architect of reauthorizing a responsible liability program and the person most responsible for harnessing the research capacities of America to breathe life into the research and nuclear construction sectors. One news outlet called him "the nuclear renaissance man." And he is recognized by all as the driving force behind the industry's resurgence.

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But he has done so much more. His work on the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and on last year's Energy Independence and Security Act were landmarks in bipartisan legislating. He helped renewable and alternative energy, from wind and solar to biomass, and especially biofuels to develop, helping create Clean Renewable Energy Bonds to pay for the construction of renewable energy plants. During the bills he refereed more policy disputes and generated more compromises than I have time to mention.

But he also was the sponsor of so much other landmark legislation during his storied career. One bill finally passed the Senate earlier this week to require parity for mental health treatment benefits. As Senate budget chairman, he helped set up the Nation's budgeting system, which was still working well when he assumed the chairmanship of the Energy Committee in 2003.

PETE DOMENICI's legacy has inspired so many of us and his retirement will leave some pretty big shoes for us all to fill. I will miss the Senator's smile, as well as his light-hearted and joyful presence. He is known as a man who is firm in his convictions, but gracious in his negotiations. He is an example of a true statesman who has served his country well.

I will truly miss him. I could say a lot more, but I clearly am out of time.

MONDAY, *November 17, 2008*

Mr. INOUYE. Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator DOMENICI has been a tremendous and dedicated servant to his home State of New Mexico. His distinguished career spans 36 years, making him the first New Mexican to serve six full 6-year terms and the longest serving Senator of his State.

Senator DOMENICI has been a devoted champion of the State of New Mexico. His relentless commitment to the people of New Mexico is evident to all who know him. As a respected leader in the Senate, he has pushed to strengthen energy security, curb nuclear proliferation, promote fiscal responsibility in the Federal budget, and has demonstrated profound leadership skills in his desire to continuously improve New Mexico's economy.



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Among his many accomplishments and priorities, Senator DOMENICI has placed the importance of our future generation at the forefront. He recognizes the necessity of cultivating the young minds of today to ensure a bright future. Over a decade ago, Senator DOMENICI introduced the Character Counts Program into New Mexico's school curriculum. Under the guidance of this program, schoolchildren learn the value of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship as they build their character. Such traits are reflected in Senator DOMENICI. His legacy of public service has truly left its mark on Congress and will forever remain in the hearts of New Mexicans.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator and friend.

WEDNESDAY, *November 19, 2008*

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as the 110th Congress draws to a close, I rise to say thanks and farewell to one of our hardest working and most dedicated Members, Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico.

PETE DOMENICI's story is truly the American dream come to life. The son of immigrants, PETE worked in the family grocery business, earned a college degree, taught school, obtained a law degree, and served in local government before his election to the Senate.

I cannot overlook one vitally important part of his biography, and that is his stint as a pitcher for a farm team of the old Brooklyn Dodgers. Who knows how much different history would be if his fast ball had had a little more "pop" to it?

For 36 years, however, baseball's loss has been the Senate's gain. The character developed by athletic competition—determination, hard work, a sense of fair play—is fully evident in PETE's six terms in office.

When the people of New Mexico chose PETE DOMENICI to be the longest serving Senator in their State's history, they chose wisely. His tireless work on a wide range of issues has helped to ensure a better future for all Americans, rural or urban, large State or small. He is a respected leader on some of the most important challenges of our time, such as strengthening energy security, curbing nuclear proliferation, and promoting sound Federal budget policy.

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PETE's understanding of the budget process is matched only by his appreciation of the critical role fiscal responsibility plays. His service on the Budget Committee established his universal reputation as one of the Senate's hardest working, most intelligent, and best-informed Members. His focus on results rather than the limelight led one colleague to describe him as having "a terminal case of responsibility."

Senator DOMENICI is also a true champion for biomedical research, and especially for Americans suffering from mental illness. He has worked unceasingly over the years to increase the understanding and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness. He has led the effort in the Senate—first in partnership with Senator Paul Wellstone, and later with our colleague Senator Ted Kennedy, to pass legislation that requires insurers to cover mental illness in the same way they cover physical illnesses.

Thankfully, those efforts have finally borne fruit with the inclusion of his legislation in the economic stimulus bill, the stabilization bill passed in the Senate. It is a victory not just for Senator DOMENICI's long-standing efforts but also for the estimated 50 million Americans who suffer from some kind of mental illness. It is a testament to his dedication and his compassion.

Senator DOMENICI's tenure has been marked by vision, common sense, and a commitment to results. When he became chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 2003, Senator DOMENICI set to work to craft the first major comprehensive energy bill in more than a decade. Many thought it would be impossible to put together the bipartisan support to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but Senator DOMENICI did it. That landmark law laid the foundation for American energy independence, the responsible use of existing resources, and the development of new technology. We can build on that foundation by following the model he set of informed debate and thoughtful consensus.

While most of his many accomplishments have national significance, there is one that may not be well known outside of his home State. More than a decade ago, PETE DOMENICI introduced a program that has helped the schoolchildren of New Mexico learn trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. This program is called Character Counts. It fully epitomizes what PETE DOMENICI is all about. It fully describes his legacy because, with PETE DOMENICI, character has always counted.

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Senator DOMENICI leaves this Chamber with an overflowing and bipartisan store of good will and gratitude. We are all losing an outstanding colleague. On a personal note, I am also losing an outstanding Washington, DC, neighbor, since PETE and his wonderful wife, Nancy, live right down the street from me. I am pleased to be among the many Senators offering thanks for his years of service and best wishes to him and to Nancy.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish to honor our distinguished colleague, PETE DOMENICI, who will be ending his historic Senate career at the end of this Congress. For the past 32 years it has been my privilege to serve with PETE DOMENICI in the Senate. During that time, he has epitomized devotion to public service and to his State of New Mexico. He will leave the Senate having cast more votes than all but six other Senators in the history of this body. He is the longest serving Senator in New Mexico's history, and he rightly occupies an iconic status in his home State.

PETE DOMENICI experienced a modest upbringing as the only son of first generation Italian immigrants. He secured his first job after college as a pitcher for the Albuquerque Dukes, then a farm team for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Following a stint as a teacher, PETE won a seat on the Albuquerque City Commission in 1966. The next year, we both became mayors of our respective cities: PETE served Albuquerque as I served Indianapolis. After 6 years in the Albuquerque City Hall, he became the first Republican to win a Senate seat from New Mexico in 38 years.

I entered the Senate in 1977, 4 years after PETE. By that time, he already was recognized as a leading Republican authority on the budget process. I looked to PETE as a mentor on the intricacies of the Federal budget, and he graciously tutored me on both substance and process. Year after year, as the lead Republican on the Budget Committee, PETE was indispensable as floor manager of the budget resolution. Frequently, when the Senate lost its way during a difficult budget debate, Senator DOMENICI functioned as a touchstone to bring the debate back to sober reflection and verifiable statistics. I doubt the Senate will ever experience a leader who has a more detailed command of the budget process and who could explain it with greater clarity.

It is telling that even though PETE derived much annual power from his roles as Budget chairman and Appropriations Subcommittee chairman, this status did not dissuade him from proposing a reform idea that implicitly would reduce

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his opportunities to exercise this authority—namely a 2-year budget cycle. I have always been impressed by his embrace of this idea, and his endorsement influenced my own support for a 2-year budget process. Senator DOMENICI’s advocacy went against standard expectations that Members of Congress will protect their own prerogatives even if their best judgment tells them that reforms are necessary. But PETE’s service in the Senate was never based upon accruing personal authority or maximizing his notoriety.

I was extremely pleased that Senator DOMENICI’s assiduous efforts over many years were recently brought to fruition with the passage and signature into law of the Mental Health Parity Act. PETE joined the late Senator Paul Wellstone in promoting this bipartisan legislation that will ensure that health plans make mental health treatment available for those in need. It will provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services and help avert the development of future physical problems that could arise from untreated and increasingly debilitating psychological illness.

I am especially sad to see PETE leave because he has been an outstanding partner in work to prevent nuclear proliferation and to improve response to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. In concert with the efforts of Senator Sam Nunn and myself to establish the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program at the Department of Defense—which is aimed at securing and destroying weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union—Senator DOMENICI spearheaded the expansion of the Energy Department’s involvement in safeguarding nuclear material. He also was an effective advocate for the role of our national laboratories in nonproliferation work. Scientists from the national laboratories have been on the front lines of our engagement with the brain trust of the Soviet nuclear program. PETE understood the unique skill set possessed by our laboratories, and he made sure that they were well funded and authorized to implement numerous nonproliferation projects. Senator DOMENICI also joined with Senator Nunn and me to pass the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Act of 1997. Long before September 11, 2001, this legislation was working to improve the capabilities of local and State first responders, especially with regard to weapons of mass destruction attacks. The experience, awareness, and structure established by this program have been valuable to our Nation’s post-9/11 homeland security efforts.

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The Senate will miss deeply Senator DOMENICI's experience displayed over 36 years. He will be remembered as a workhorse able to shoulder the daily burdens of a thousand details, but also as a thoughtful observer who saw beyond the politics of the moment to provide perspective on the direction of our country. I wish my good friend the best as he leaves the Senate to experience new adventures with his family.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the departure of Senator PETE DOMENICI will deprive the Senate of our foremost expert on energy and budget legislation. For 36 years, I have enjoyed and learned from PETE's frequent presentations in our Republican Senators' caucus meetings.

His chairmanship of the Budget Committee during the Reagan administration led to sensible economies in Federal spending which have not since been duplicated. If his comprehensive ideas on energy had been followed, the United States would long ago have shed its dependence on foreign oil.

Through it all, PETE has been a most congenial colleague. Always smiling, always helping, PETE has constantly been available to offer guidance to Members not as well versed on his areas of specialty. Enormously popular in New Mexico, it is understandable why he is called "Saint PETE."

Senator DOMENICI came to my rescue when I was called upon to make the presentation at the Senate Wednesday prayer breakfast after I had been a member for a short period of time. I chose to talk about a new edition of the New Testament which had been published by a friend, Irwin Borowsky of Philadelphia. The text omitted all references which might have been interpreted to be critical of Jewish people in connection with the crucifixion.

I made the point that these references had caused young Jewish boys to be beaten up in some communities on Christian religious holidays motivated by the anti-Jewish comments in the Bible. My theme was sharply, really vehemently, opposed by some Senators at the breakfast. PETE DOMENICI then supported my contention reciting some of the barbs, insults and worse which had been inflicted on Italians.

When PETE told me of his plan to retire because he thought he was failing, I urged him to make a full disclosure of his medical condition to his constituents but to stay on. I told him of a conversation I had with Senator Paul Tsongas in 1984 when Tsongas had announced his intent to retire be-

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cause he had lymphoma, as I recall it. Since the medical evidence suggested Paul might well serve out his term, I urged him to stay on, leaving the voters to decide after making full disclosure as to his medical condition. Paul Tsongas felt otherwise and elected to leave. He not only could have served his full term through 1990 but then became a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1992. After telling him about the Tsongas situation, PETE stuck by his decision. In recent days, Senator DOMENICI has looked stronger than ever but I totally respect his decision, saying only that we will miss him very much.

THURSDAY, *November 20, 2008*

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it is always a bittersweet moment in time for me when we come to the close of a session of Congress. As the clock counts down the final hours of our legislative activities, it also signals the day when several of our colleagues will be retiring and ending their service in the U.S. Senate. When the current session ends, one of my good friends and great allies in the Senate will be returning home to his beloved New Mexico. He is Senator PETE DOMENICI and I know we will all miss him and his powerful presence in the Senate.

In the months to come, PETE may no longer be serving with us, but he will not be forgotten. He has left his mark on the Senate and on us all in too many ways for us not to remember him and how hard he has been working for the people of New Mexico, the West, and the Nation over the years. Every day he came to the Senate he was focused on what he could do today to make our tomorrows better for us all. The leadership he provided on so many issues will be very difficult to replace.

PETE began his career right out of college when he was deemed to be a good enough pitcher to be signed by a Brooklyn Dodgers farm team. It was a good life, but it wasn't the one for PETE. He decided after the season was over that baseball wasn't what he wanted to do and so he decided instead to do a different kind of pitching—to the people of the city he lived in. That pitch helped launch him on his true life's work—serving the people of his State and helping to make New Mexico a better place to live.

When PETE decided to get involved in politics his friends told him he was making a big mistake. They warned him

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that it was a tough way to make a living and that it would be a rough life. Politics is a harsh affair, they told him, and they warned him that people would attack him and his reputation. They wondered why a guy who had such great gifts wanted to take on what would be a very difficult challenge.

We are very fortunate that PETE didn't take their advice. Instead, he decided to run for the Senate and to bring his case to the people. To no one's surprise they liked what they heard and PETE came to Washington after the 1972 elections. They have been sending him back here with enthusiasm ever since.

It is not an easy thing to sum up a career in the Senate that has spanned four decades. That is the mark of an individual who has dared to try to achieve great things—and succeeded. He came to the Senate with a great awareness of what needed to be done and with a combination of his own brand of style and substance he has been part of a great effort to make those goals a reality.

Looking over his record in the Senate, it shows that PETE has been a key player in our work to achieve energy independence. Together with his New Mexico colleague, Jeff Bingaman, PETE worked to bring a national energy bill that seemed doomed to be stalled forever to the floor for a vote and on to the President's desk for his signature. PETE was always willing to work with any Member, no matter their place on the political spectrum, if it meant making progress on a key issue. That is why I would sum up PETE's career in one word—success. PETE has a knack of finding a way to make things happen and we have all benefited from his abilities.

For my part, I also worked with him on the mental health parity bill. For too long the provisions of our health care system provided unequally for physical health and mental health problems. PETE knew that was unfair, and he was determined to do something about it. Working together with me and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Senator Edward Kennedy, PETE was able to help bring a bill to the floor that required health insurance plans that offer mental health coverage to provide it on an equal level with that afforded to physical illnesses. It is a major change in health care coverage that will make life better for millions and millions of Americans. It is a major accomplishment and it will serve as a special part of his legacy of achievements in the Senate.

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In the months to come we will also miss PETE's leadership and his wise counsel as we continue to work on the economic problems facing the Nation. PETE is an expert on budget issues and he has served as our Budget Committee chairman. As I have served alongside him over the years, I have appreciated having the opportunity to observe him in action and work with him on measures of concern to us both. He has been a tireless worker in the effort to bring the Nation's expense account to a biennial budget. He has also fought long and hard to try to put a rein on runaway Federal spending. He was willing to do whatever was necessary to reach an agreement that would balance the budget. He got that done by once again working with Members of both sides of the aisle and a Democratic administration. That was just like him. If there was a way to get something done, PETE usually found it, and the new way he helped develop usually got the bill passed and signed into law.

For me and for most of us, what I will most remember is PETE's personality and his great warmth. He is a genuine good guy who is very down to Earth. He is a gentle man and a gentleman in every sense of the word. He is a man of great faith who believes that public service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on God's green Earth. Simply put, he is the kind of person you would want to have for a friend. That is why so many of us treasure his friendship. He is loyal and close to other Members and to all his staff. He treats his staff like Members of his extended family and not like staff. I think that is why they work so hard for him. They love him like a father because he treats them, as he treats everyone he knows, with kindness and respect.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention his wife Nancy. She has been a pillar of strength and a source of great support and encouragement to him in his life. I like to say that PETE and I both overmarried. She has been an essential member of his team since they met and I know he would say that whatever success has come to him in his life he owes in great degree to her influence. She is his greatest friend, his wisest counselor and his closest confidante. Together they have done a tremendous job for the people of New Mexico and the influence they have had on it can be seen from one corner of the State to the other. She has been a partner in the fight for mental health parity.

The story is told that when PETE was accepted into law school his father made him a deal. "I will finance your law school education," he told him, "but only if you agree to my



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terms. If you do well, I will be proud to pay your way. If you bring home an ‘F’ I will expect to be repaid.”

Well, my friend, as you return home, your father would be very proud of the report card you will take with you from the Senate and from the people of New Mexico. You have done a great job and everything you have done in your life and in your career you have done very well. You take with us our great praise and an “A” from us all for effort, for the work you have done and for the results you have achieved. God bless and be with you, PETE and Nancy. I know we will all miss you and think of you often. Make sure you leave your number with us for I know we will be reaching out to you for your advice and thoughtful suggestions in the days to come. That is one thing that will never change.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

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

MONDAY, *December 8, 2008*

Mr. ALEXANDER. . . . With the departures of Ted Stevens and two other Senators of whom I have already spoken—PETE DOMENICI and John Warner—the Senate loses more than 100 years of service. More than that, this country loses three men whose view of America was rooted in the last years of World War II and the remarkable ascendancy of our country since then. Looking around the Senate, it will be difficult to find many among those of us who remain with the breadth of vision and old-fashioned patriotism that these men have contributed.

TUESDAY, *December 9, 2008*

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, when the Senate convenes next January, it is difficult to accept that Senator DOMENICI will not be here.

This son of an Italian immigrant grocer was elected to the Senate in 1972, making him the first Republican in nearly

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40 years to be elected to the Senate from the great State of New Mexico. He is now the longest serving Senator in the history of New Mexico.

In the Senate, he established himself as an expert on fiscal policies and the intricacies of the Federal budget. Having served with Senator DOMENICI on the Appropriations and Budget Committees, I have come to know and respect him not only as a dear friend and colleague, but also as a formidable opponent. Senator DOMENICI and I have clashed swords many times on the Senate floor, and, believe me, when you clashed with him, you would have the fight of your life. He has one of the sharpest minds on Capitol Hill. He is one of the most knowledgeable people on the budget on Capitol Hill. And he is always prepared.

Oh, how I regret that he will be leaving us all too soon. But I would like to use this opportunity to thank the senior Senator from New Mexico for his wonderful service and to congratulate him on an outstanding career in the Senate.

Thank you, Senator DOMENICI, for all your work for your State, and our country. And, thank you, PETE, for being a friend.

THURSDAY, *December 11, 2008*

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to pay tribute to the senior Senator from New Mexico, a dedicated public servant, a respected lawmaker, and a man I am proud to call my colleague, PETE DOMENICI.

From his first days in the Senate in the 93d Congress, to now 35 years later, Senator DOMENICI has earned a reputation as a powerful champion for New Mexico. While he and I have not agreed on some issues, I have never questioned his commitment to do what he believed was right for this country and the State of New Mexico. However, I might question which of our Italian grandmothers made a better meatball, but then again I wouldn't want a fight to break out here on the Senate floor.

Senator DOMENICI has too many accomplishments to list here today. Senator DOMENICI has had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Senate. However what stands out most to me is his unending drive to enact mental health parity legislation which he worked on so closely with our late colleague Paul Wellstone. I believe it was a fitting tribute to

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enact this legislation in the closing days of the 110th Congress.

I know it can sound repetitive when people hear Senators make remarks such as these about our colleagues as they are leaving the Senate. But I think it is important for the public to know that despite all the squabbling that goes on in Washington, there is the deep respect, affection, and caring that goes on among the Members of this body. After an incredible 36 years of service to New Mexico the United States is grateful, and I consider myself fortunate to have served 33 years with PETE DOMENICI in the U.S. Senate. Marcelle and I wish PETE and Nancy the best.

FRIDAY, *December 12, 2008*

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an undeniable, universally acknowledged legend of the U.S. Senate, an outstanding public servant who has been a legislative master of this institution and its most labyrinthine but pivotal and influential procedures, and a U.S. Senator who, with passion and verve, brilliantly grasped the complex nuances of legislation without losing the broader perspective driving the national issues of the day. I am referring, of course, to the senior Senator from New Mexico, PETE DOMENICI.

In his 36 years serving the people of New Mexico in this venerable institution, Senator DOMENICI embraced and confronted the most difficult or consequential of matters regardless of opposition or the complexity of the subject. Indeed, Mr. President, as our country faces myriad challenges, it is with a heavy heart that we lose not only an exceptional colleague and friend to many of us, but one of the Senate's finest legislators.

I had the distinct privilege of witnessing PETE DOMENICI's sterling leadership and political acumen first hand when he chaired the Senate Committee on the Budget from 1995 to 2002 in three successive Congresses. Having been a member on the House Budget Committee, I can tell you that serving on the Senate Budget Committee during PETE's chairmanship represented a magnificent opportunity for a freshman Senator—not to mention the fact that PETE empathized with me as he had been offered a seat on the committee as a freshman Senator as well.

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Although PETE was quoted as saying that he joined the committee in 1973 “because it was available to me as a freshman, when other committees were not,” history will show that the Senate Budget Committee, the U.S. Senate, and the country were all well served because of PETE DOMENICI’s undaunted command of the budget process and the esteem and respect with which he was held by his colleagues.

As I joined the Senate Budget Committee in 1995 with Chairman DOMENICI at the helm, we worked hand in glove to reprioritize our Federal budget, instill greater fiscal discipline, and pass a balanced budget for the first time in 26 years. Success was going to require dedication and pragmatism or in PETE’s words, “guts.”

I well recall standing on the floor of the Senate as we were debating the budget resolution, and, referencing Winston Churchill’s famous remark, I said:

I feel we finally have reached the “end of the beginning” of what I hope will eventually be known as the first 7-year budget to reach a balance in over a generation.

And the force behind that legislative and budgetary milestone was the Senator we honor today, PETE DOMENICI. The ramifications of our work on that budget resolution, along with our strong bipartisan 92 to 8 victory on the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, represent a historic template for how this institution tackles budgetary issues today and likely will in the future.

However, what has resonated the most through the years—and what is certainly one of the crowning hallmarks of his monumental legacy—is how PETE reminded us that the Senate can indeed achieve resolution by bridging the partisan divide and forsaking polarizing acrimony in favor of substantive action advancing the public good.

Senator DOMENICI brought this same constancy of purpose and tireless commitment to the common good to his advocacy for mental health parity in health care coverage. Vigorously working across the aisle with Senators Wellstone and Kennedy, Senator DOMENICI demonstrated that building bipartisan coalitions based on common objectives and good will was not only possible but fundamental to creating good policy.

As Senator DOMENICI made his compelling case against the inequality of mental health care to the White House and to each Member of the Senate, his personal history with the disease was conveyed in a manner that could not have been

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more poignant and powerful. The story of Clare, Senator DOMENICI's daughter, mirrors that of millions of Americans afflicted with a mental health disorder, and Senator DOMENICI courageously recognized that he was uniquely positioned to help shepherd the message that health care coverage should not financially discriminate on the basis of this disease.

Although Senator Wellstone characterized his partnership with Senator DOMENICI as "an odd couple," where their political philosophies diverged, their common allegiance to making a difference paved the way for enormous strides that engendered an effective bond. And with stately leadership, Senator DOMENICI and Senator Kennedy rallied the Senate, which at that point had mourned the tragic loss of Senator Wellstone, to action, passing the Mental Health Parity Act which the President signed into law. Once again, Mr. President, Senator DOMENICI confounded the status quo and fought for meaningful change.

I believe we ought to have more, not fewer, "odd couples" and alliances in the Senate, given that compromise and conciliation are the true and necessary lifelines to achieving real results. To that end, my hope is that the Domenici-Wellstone-Kennedy example will constitute a model for generations to come of bipartisanship and comity. And I couldn't have been more pleased, having been a longtime leader on this issue myself, to work in accord with Senator DOMENICI in bringing this matter to fruition in the 110th Congress.

Last, I cannot help but applaud Senator DOMENICI for his indispensable role in championing the 2005 Energy Policy Act. And while we had some differences on policy, once again, true to his relentless work ethic, his can-do optimism, and dogged determination, what was most conspicuously vital and on display was Senator DOMENICI's pragmatism in crafting this legislation.

Advancing this measure required Senator DOMENICI to compromise with his own colleague from New Mexico, Senator Bingaman. Yet they sought, found, and maximized the common denominators that would, in the end, allow this bill to be signed into law. It stands as an enduring testament to Senator DOMENICI that the final energy bill in 2005 passed with 71 votes, and Congress took a serious step forward in addressing our energy crisis.

Time and again, Senator DOMENICI has placed legislative performance above political posturing, and a desire for concrete results above the din of discord and rancor. And in the

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process, Senator DOMENICI leaves a formidable legacy of establishing the standard for facilitating the budget process, providing mental health parity for millions of Americans, and forging a critical first step toward altering the course of our long-dormant energy policy.

For well more than three decades, this institution has been blessed to have among our ranks one of the giant legislators of his generation and our time, and we will miss you PETE and all you brought to the Senate, to public service, and to the people of New Mexico. As the son of Italian immigrants, who worked in your father's wholesale grocery business, and who would later become a minor league baseball pitcher, math teacher, lawyer, and then a legendary Senator—you truly exemplify the very best of the American story and dream. To Nancy and the entire Domenici family, thank you for sharing PETE with us and our country. We are all the better for knowing him, working with him, and calling him our colleague and friend.

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