

KENTUCKY
Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul

LOUISIANA
Mary L. Landrieu and David Vitter

MAINE
Olympia J. Snowe and Susan M. Collins

MARYLAND
Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin

MASSACHUSETTS
John F. Kerry and Scott P. Brown

MICHIGAN
Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow

MINNESOTA
Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

MISSISSIPPI
Thad Cochran and Roger F. Wicker

MISSOURI
Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt

MONTANA
Max Baucus and Jon Tester

NEBRASKA
Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns

NEVADA
Harry Reid and John Ensign

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte

NEW JERSEY
Frank R. Lautenberg and Robert Menendez

NEW MEXICO
Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall

NEW YORK
Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand

NORTH CAROLINA
Richard Burr and Kay R. Hagan

NORTH DAKOTA
Kent Conrad and John Hoeven

OHIO
Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman

OKLAHOMA
James M. Inhofe and Tom Coburn

OREGON
Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert P. Casey, Jr., and Pat Toomey

RHODE ISLAND
Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse

SOUTH CAROLINA
Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint

SOUTH DAKOTA
Tim Johnson and John Thune

TENNESSEE
Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker

TEXAS
Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn

UTAH
Orrin G. Hatch and Mike Lee

VERMONT
Patrick J. Leahy and Bernard Sanders

VIRGINIA
Jim Webb and Mark Warner

WASHINGTON
Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell

WEST VIRGINIA
John D. Rockefeller, IV, and Joe Manchin,

III

WISCONSIN
Herb Kohl and Ron Johnson

WYOMING
Michael B. Enzi and John Barrasso

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk. I ask it now be considered.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 1) informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 1) reads as follows:

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to S. Res. 1, the Chair appoints the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, and the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. McCONNELL, as a committee to join the committee on the part of the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum is assembled and the Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have another resolution at the desk. I ask it be considered.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 2) informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 2) reads as follows:

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider that vote.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk and ask it be reported.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 3) fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 3) read as follows:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

HONORING SENATOR MIKULSKI AS SHE BECOMES THE LONGEST SERVING FEMALE SENATOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have another resolution at desk. I ask it be now considered.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) honoring Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for becoming the longest serving female Senator in history.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is approved and the preamble is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 4) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 4

Whereas the Honorable Barbara Mikulski has had a long and distinguished career as a United States Senator from the State of Maryland;

Whereas Senator Mikulski was first elected to the United States Congress as a member of the House of Representatives in 1976, where she served until winning election to the Senate in 1986;

Whereas Senator Mikulski is the first woman to be elected to statewide office in Maryland;

Whereas in the 103rd Congress, Senator Mikulski was the first woman to be elected Assistant Senate Democratic Floor Leader;

Whereas Senator Mikulski was the first woman in the Senate Democratic Leadership, serving as Secretary of the Senate Democratic Conference in the 104th through the 108th Congresses;

Whereas in 1997, Senator Mikulski became the most senior woman serving in the Senate;

Whereas Senator Mikulski is the first woman to serve on the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the first woman to chair the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies;

Whereas Senator Mikulski has not only had a path breaking career, but has won the admiration and respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle for her hard work, passionate and effective advocacy, commitment to social and economic justice, and willingness to serve as a mentor and role model to other senators; and

Whereas Senator Mikulski has now surpassed the record of former Senator Margaret Chase Smith as the longest serving female Senator in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and honors Senator Barbara Mikulski for becoming the longest-serving female Senator in history.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the following Senators be recognized to speak on this resolution and Senator MIKULSKI's historic milestone—I would note for Senators, we will be in a period of morning business when we complete the business of today—REID of Nevada for 2 minutes, MCCONNELL for 2 minutes, CARDIN for 2 minutes, SNOWE for 2 minutes, and MIKULSKI for 3 minutes. I ask unanimous consent.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I came to the Senate in January 1987, in the same class as BARBARA MIKULSKI. Every sixth January since, including today, BARBARA MIKULSKI and I have been sworn in together. Taking that oath is humbling and meaningful for every Senator, but it is a little more meaningful this time around for Senator MIKULSKI, for Maryland, and for our country. She is now the longest serving woman Senator in our Nation's history.

She has had a pathbreaking career, and that is an understatement. She was the first woman to serve in the Senate Democratic leadership when we elected her our caucus secretary and she was the first woman ever to serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The woman whose record she breaks was a significant Senator in her own right. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the first woman to be elected to both the House and the Senate.

I know Senator MIKULSKI very well. She is my friend and my confidant. I know that more than any records, she is most proud of what she has done with that time, time she has dedicated to tireless, passionate, and effective advocacy for those who need a voice or even a hand.

She is as committed to social and economic justice as any Senator who has ever served in this great Chamber

and she has won the admiration and respect of her colleagues, both Democrats and Republican, especially those for whom she has given her time and her advice as a mentor and a role model.

Alongside all her records and accomplishments, I will always admire the way she led us in one of our darkest days. As evening fell on Washington, DC, for the first time after the Twin Towers fell in New York, hundreds of Members of Congress, from the House and the Senate, walked outside to the steps of the Capitol. We joined hands. Then, in a moment of silence, Senator MIKULSKI suggested we all sing "God Bless America." We did. I will never forget that moment.

I will always remember a speech this good woman gave more than two decades ago. Senator MIKULSKI, Senator John Glenn, and I went on a trip to Poland, back when it was behind the Communist Iron Curtain. John Glenn, who, of course, was an international celebrity in addition to being a Senator, captivated the crowd. We were in a basement, meeting with some disidents. Knowing Senator MIKULSKI is of Polish descent, I asked if she could speak next, after Senator Glenn. I thought she would say a few words about her heritage. I have heard a lot of speeches in my life, but none has ever moved me more than the speech BARBARA MIKULSKI gave in that basement in Warsaw, Poland.

Congratulations to my friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, and the State of Maryland for returning such a strong public servant to the Senate on their behalf.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I, too, rise to honor our colleague, the senior Senator from Maryland, on becoming the longest serving female Senator in the history of the Senate. In achieving this milestone, BARBARA passes Margaret Chase Smith, as the majority leader indicated, who served the people of Maine from 1949 to 1973. As was indicated, she is also only the second woman to be elected to both the Senate and the House.

When first elected to the Senate in 1986, BARBARA was only the 16th woman to ever serve. Today, there are more female Senators than that in the 112th Congress alone.

BARBARA has served as a role model and mentor to many of them, and I know they are grateful for it. She has been a champion of the space program, scientific research, welfare reform, major transportation, homeland security, and environmental issues in Maryland.

I think BARBARA would be the first to tell you that becoming the longest serving female Senator wasn't easy. Like all streaks, including that of another Marylander Cal Ripken, there are a lot of bumps in the road. But she has made it through it all and we are happy to share in this milestone with her today.

I wish to recognize BARBARA not only for her accomplishment as the longest serving female in the Senate history but also for all of her many accomplishments as a Senator and for the pioneering model she has been to so many women in her distinguished career. Again, congratulations, Senator MIKULSKI.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Marylanders take pride in their Hall of Famers, from Cal Ripkin, our "Iron Man," to Brooks Robinson with the Golden Gloves, to Johnny Unitas with the Golden Arm, to Frank Robinson, who was an All-Star in both the American and National Leagues. Now we add to that list our own Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the longest serving woman Senator in Senate history.

Marylanders are proud of Senator BARB not because of her length of service but for what she has done as a Senator and throughout her entire career. If you ask any Marylander what they think about Senator MIKULSKI, they will start off by saying: She is a fighter. Then they will say: We are glad she is on our side.

She is an effective fighter for the people. From protecting neighborhoods from an unwanted highway to keeping jobs in Maryland from being shipped overseas, there is no more effective fighter than Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

She has protected our national security from her position on the Intelligence Committee, she has strengthened the U.S. Space Program in her position on the Appropriations Committee, she provided equity in health care from the HELP Committee, and she stands up for our Federal workers, advancing gender equity issues, and the list goes on and on and on.

She has taken her social worker background, her political training from ward politics in east Baltimore, and her hard work ethic from her parents and her own common sense to be the voice for working families in the Halls of the Senate.

On a personal note, I thank my friend for always being there for me, working together as a team for the people of Maryland. On behalf of my two granddaughters, my daughter, my wife, and all Americans, thank you, Senator MIKULSKI, for living the American dream and making that dream a reality for so many Americans.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, there are certain occasions in the life of our Nation and this esteemed institution that are so steeped in history they remain indelibly etched in our minds and upon our hearts. This is one of those iconic moments as we share in recognizing Senator MIKULSKI's venerable achievement with her colleagues, her family, loved ones, friends, constituents, staff, and indeed the Nation.

This is also a special day of pride most especially for those of us who are

women Senators for whom Senator MIKULSKI has been a role model and mentor as well as coleading numerous efforts with Senator HUTCHISON, our senior Republican woman, to foster camaraderie among all of us.

Having been privileged to know Senator MIKULSKI for more than 30 years, beginning with our mutual service in the House of Representatives, I cannot conceive of anyone I would rather witness overtaking such a sacrosanct milestone than the senior Senator from Maryland, a beloved, vigorous champion of the people of her State and unquestionably the women of America.

Indisputably, for both of her Maine colleagues, Senator COLLINS and me, the landmark occasion we are commemorating is all the more personal and poignant given we are both colleagues and dear friends of Senator MIKULSKI and also direct inheritors and beneficiaries of Senator Margaret Chase Smith's groundbreaking service. It is in that light that I am deeply privileged today to stand at the very desk she once graced, and having sat across her desk when I first met her in Washington years ago, to also pay tribute to Senator Smith by wearing her pin given to me by a very good friend from Maine, Susan Longley, one of the actual pins in which Senator Smith would famously place the trademark rose she wore daily on the floor of the Senate.

Indeed, there are numerous similarities between Senator Margaret Chase Smith and Senator MIKULSKI that transcend longevity. They both live the ideals of hard work and earning their own way in life. Senator MIKULSKI, the proud descendent of Polish immigrants, worked in her parents' grocery store during her formative years in Baltimore, and years later, after she graduated from college, acquired a master's degree and pursued the noble calling of social work.

Senator Smith was a textile worker, telephone operator, newspaper woman, teacher, and an office manager. The point is, neither started at the top, but they most certainly arrived there. Senator Smith rose from the humblest beginnings to represent Maine in the House of Representatives and the Senate for more than 32 distinguished years with unequalled courage, civility, compassion, and integrity. She was a visionary of endless firsts, but, undoubtedly, Senator Smith will best be remembered for the moment during her only second year in the Senate, with truly uncommon courage and principled independence, she telegraphed the truth about McCarthyism during the Red Scare of the 1950s with her renowned "Declaration of Conscience" speech on the Senate floor. In 15 minutes she had done what 94 of her colleagues, male colleagues I might add, had not dared to do, and in so doing slayed a giant of demagoguery prompting American financier Bernard Baruch to say: Had a man made that speech, he would have become the next President of the United States.

Yet even as Senator Smith was a political pioneer, she never deliberately set out to establish some sort of precedent for women. Rather, what her life proved is that gender was not the key factor in public service but dedication and energy, confidence, ability, and sheer guts were. If those foundational qualities do not also encapsulate the essence of the public service of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, then I do not know what does.

It is, therefore, all the more appropriate and fitting that of anyone it would be a person of Senator MIKULSKI's legislative stature who would exceed Senator Smith's length of service in the Senate.

As if this benchmark established today were not enough, on March 17, 2012, we will all be back on the floor of the Senate because Senator MIKULSKI will become the longest serving female Member in the history of the Congress, House or Senate. She probably did not even have a chance to think about that one.

Moreover, like Senator Smith, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI has always brought an unyielding tenacity, a cornerstone of her fighting spirit and character, that has time and again been reflected in her legislative fight on behalf of the people she represents. This will not be a news flash to my colleagues or even those, our new colleagues, who will soon discover that taking no for an answer is simply not in Senator MIKULSKI's vocabulary nor her DNA. As she has often said, she is not "caffeine free." And nowhere have I witnessed that ardent focus and commitment more intensely than in Senator MIKULSKI's signature battle for equity in women's health research, one that Congresswoman Pat Schroeder and I were waging from the House side as well.

We all set aside our partisan labels at a time when, incredibly, women and minorities were systematically excluded from clinical medical trials at the National Institutes of Health, trials that often made the difference between life and death.

At a pivotal juncture, Senator MIKULSKI tackled this travesty head on and launched a key panel of stakeholders, as she can do, to explore the shocking discriminatory treatment which further galvanized national attention, and, in the end, we produced watershed policy changes that to this day are resulting in lifesaving medical discoveries for America's women.

Ultimately, what we are celebrating today are two legislative juggernauts who have defined the standard of principled public service by exemplifying a special bond of trust that should exist between the governing and the governed. They have seen problems confronting their constituencies and the Nation and left no stone unturned to solve them. They recognized injustice and acted boldly to quell it. They have given a voice to the voiceless, power to the powerless, and they were always at

one with those they represent because they never ever forgot their roots.

That is why, as Senators from the State of Maine, where Senator Margaret Chase Smith's legacy has been forever enshrined, Senator COLLINS and I are profoundly honored to share in this rarified moment as Senator MIKULSKI assumes the historic mantle of longest serving woman in the Senate. Indeed, it bodes well for the venerable institution of this Senate and our great Nation to have the senior Senator from Maryland to be at the vanguard of our ranks.

Congratulations.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate boasts many persuasive voices, but there are few stronger than that of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. To call her a trailblazer does not do justice to her long and storied career in Congress, representing the people of Maryland and advancing women's rights, civil rights, and justice for all Americans. This week, she becomes the Senate's longest serving woman Senator in U.S. history.

First elected to the House of Representatives in 1976, and to the Senate in 1986, Senator MIKULSKI has served the people of Maryland with honor and distinction. In Congress, she has remained committed to her roots in public service, which began as a social worker in Baltimore, helping at-risk children and helping seniors. After 5 years on the Baltimore City Council, Marylanders in the State's third congressional district sent Senator MIKULSKI to Congress, where she has continued her hard work and tireless advocacy for women and families.

Atop her list of priorities has been giving voice to issues concerning women's health. She worked to establish the National Institutes of Health Office of Women's Health and to implement standards to ensure that all women have access to quality mammography. She fought to expand access to maternity care. Most recently, through Senator MIKULSKI's leadership, the historic Affordable Care Act included strong antidiscrimination provisions to ensure that being a woman is no longer a pre-existing condition.

In early 2009, Senator MIKULSKI further proved she is, in fact, a force to be reckoned with, when her tireless efforts to advance the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act resulted in that legislation being one of the first laws to be signed by President Obama. Since the Supreme Court's 2007 decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire*, Senator MIKULSKI worked relentlessly to restore congressional intent and reverse the Court's decision to give employers blanket immunity for their discriminatory pay practices. The Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restored victims' ability to file suit for pay discrimination, and was an important step forward in ensuring that all workers receive equal pay for equal work.

I have been honored to work with Senator MIKULSKI in her capacity as

chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, where she has championed important programs to support state and local law enforcement, crime victims, and critical support programs for victims of domestic violence. I share her commitment to investing in the men and women who are charged with keeping our communities safe, and providing important support to victims of violence.

There is no question that Senator MIKULSKI is a leader in the Senate. As the dean of the Women of the Senate, she serves as a mentor to other women Senators who join the Chamber. She is a dedicated public servant, a strong voice for women, a consensus builder. She has said she is "first and foremost the Senator from Maryland and the Senator for Maryland." For more than three decades, many of us have been proud to call her a friend.

I join with many others in congratulating Senator MIKULSKI on this historic achievement.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate my friend and colleague, BARBARA MIKULSKI, who is now the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. Senate.

BARBARA has been a forceful advocate for the people of her beloved Maryland and a role model for women everywhere—beginning with her election to the Baltimore City Council in 1971, to her election to the House of Representatives in 1976, to her election to the Senate in 1986.

BARBARA is a pace-setter in the fight for equality for women. When I first ran for the Senate in 1992, BARBARA reached out to me to offer her support, for which I am grateful, and she welcomed me when I joined the Senate.

BARBARA is indomitable, not only in the fight for equality for women but in the broader fight for human rights for all mankind. I am proud to have worked alongside BARBARA in opposing tyranny in Burma, in pushing to restrict cluster munitions that pose a grave threat to innocent people around the world, and in pushing to free Burmese democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

And I am proud to work with her on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which I chair, where I know I can count on BARBARA to do the hard work required to oversee America's intelligence agencies and keep America safe.

Any discussion of BARBARA would be incomplete without acknowledgment of her effort to improve bipartisanship in the Senate—something sorely needed right now—an effort aided by her monthly bipartisan dinners for women Senators.

These dinners bring us together and make the Senate a more hospitable place for women. But they are more than that. These dinners are a way to

forge relationships and friendships that transcend party lines. These gatherings have created a community of interests among Senators of divergent backgrounds and political views. I think that is a very big contribution.

So I want to salute you, BARBARA. I am proud to call you colleague and friend. And I look forward to working with you for many more years to come.●

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

Earlier today, when Senator MIKULSKI took the oath in this Chamber to serve, protect, and defend the U.S. Constitution, she became the longest serving woman in the history of the Senate.

Senator MIKULSKI is no stranger to making history, and today she has made history once again.

When Senator MIKULSKI was first sworn in as a Senator in 1987, she was the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right. And, along with Senator Kassebaum, she was one of only two women in the Senate at the time.

Today, 17 women were sworn in on the Senate floor and I know many of us might not be here today without Senator MIKULSKI's support and encouragement. She truly is the dean of the women in the Senate.

Senator MIKULSKI and I became very close friends when I joined the House of Representatives in 1983. She was always someone I respected because she was always focused on making life better for the middle- and working-class people she serves.

When I first thought about running for the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI was the first person I went to see, and she gave such sage advice. She said "You'll love it here in the Senate because you have an ability to help the people you serve." Senator MIKULSKI told me it would be the toughest thing and the best thing I would ever do.

I give Senator MIKULSKI such credit. That is the role she has played with so many women Senators from both sides of the aisle. She regularly brings the women of the Senate—together Republicans and Democrats—for a friendly dinner.

One of Senator MIKULSKI's wonderful gifts is her humor. When she and I served together in the House, women were unable to use the main facilities of the House gym. Along with Geraldine Ferraro, OLYMPIA SNOWE, Barbara Kennelly and others, we worked together to "integrate" the House gym.

At the House gym, a friend would lead us in exercises. One time, she said to us: "OK everyone, hands on your hips." Senator MIKULSKI retorted, "If I had hips, I wouldn't be here."

That is so typical of her style—warm, funny and to the point. It brought us all together.

And it is one reason why this daughter of east Baltimore has been such an inspiration to millions of women across our country.

Senator MIKULSKI is an accomplished legislator and leader who knows how to get the job done.

She has long fought to protect the health and well-being of women and their families.

Not only did she support the historic health care reform legislation that is making sure every American has access to quality, affordable insurance, but Senator MIKULSKI fought to make the legislation stronger for women. I was proud to stand with her to pass an amendment that guarantees women will have access to the preventive care they need such as screenings for breast, ovarian and cervical cancer.

Senator MIKULSKI championed the Mammography Quality Standards Act, which requires mammography facilities across the Nation to meet uniform quality standards. This law has saved lives by improving preventive care that can lead to early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

When we saw how little health science and research addressed women's health, Senator MIKULSKI and I helped lead the fight for health equity. We helped create the National Institutes of Health Office of Women's Health to study women's needs and health issues.

Senator MIKULSKI believes everyone should be fairly paid for a hard day's work. We stood together as vocal advocates for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—a historic bill by Senator Kennedy that is now the law of the land.

And, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI has fought for critical funding to clean up and protect Maryland's treasured Chesapeake Bay.

Senator MIKULSKI's tenacity is undeniable. Several years ago, she was mugged one evening outside her home in Baltimore. A man pushed her to the ground and grabbed her purse.

Even though she is only 4 feet 11 inches, Senator MIKULSKI fought back and defended herself.

Yes, Senator MIKULSKI stands up for herself and stands up for the people of Maryland. She has fought hard for change and equal rights. As she likes to say, there are times when you need to "(s)quare your shoulders, suit up, put on your lipstick and get ready for battle."

Senator MIKULSKI has always been out in front. She has used her role as the senior woman in the Senate to focus on issues that matter to her constituents. Her power lies in her ability to organize people. That is one reason she is so beloved by her colleagues—we love it when she brings us together on issues.

I stand today to honor my good friend, a trailblazer and a mentor, Senator MIKULSKI.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is a great honor to join in recognizing and celebrating my colleague, the senior Senator from Maryland. Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI became the longest serving woman Senator in our Nation's

history today when she completed the oath to begin her fifth term in the Senate. Indeed, this is not the first time Senator MIKULSKI's name will be etched in history for her groundbreaking service: she was the first woman elected to statewide office in Maryland and the first female Democrat to serve in both Chambers of Congress.

During her 24 years in the Senate, she has won the admiration of her colleagues for her resolve, hard work and dedication to her constituents. It is an honor to call Senator MIKULSKI a friend. As representatives of neighboring States, we have often had the opportunity to work together on issues of regional importance. I can never thank her enough for her commitment to NASA-Wallops, one of many examples in this regard.

Today marks a special milestone in the Senate's history. I join my colleagues in commending Senator MIKULSKI, not only for her enormous service to this body and to our country but as someone who has been a tireless advocate for her home State of Maryland.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to add my voice to the many others heaping deserved praise onto Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who sets a record today as the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Senate.

Tough but compassionate, an effective advocate for Maryland and for the national interest, Senator MIKULSKI has achieved more than just longevity. She has been an energetic and effective advocate for the interests of children, a staunch ally of seniors, a defender of services for our veterans, and a supporter of efforts to involve all Americans in solving our Nation's problems through service and voluntarism. Her support of education and scientific research promises benefits that will last long after we all have departed the Senate.

I have been a proud partner with her on making commonsense changes to our Nation's immigration system. She also has been a strong advocate for Federal programs that promote manufacturing, such as the Commerce Department's Manufacturing Extension Program and the Technology Innovation Program.

Senator MIKULSKI is rightly seen as a mentor and leader of women who come to the Senate. The successes of the many female Senators who have been the beneficiaries of her guidance stand as a testament to the power of her example.

Senator MIKULSKI has admirably brought the lessons of her early career as a social worker to her work in the Senate, understanding that real families with real problems are looking to us for solutions.

The people of Maryland and of this Nation are fortunate to have the benefit of her service. I am proud to call her a colleague and a friend. I congratulate her on her accomplishment and I await the many more achievements I know are to come.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI on becoming the longest-serving woman in Senate history. While this is a milestone to celebrate, the true cause for celebration is not just Senator MIKULSKI's decades of service to this chamber, but her lifetime of service to her beloved Baltimore, her state of Maryland, and our Nation.

This occasion has a special meaning for Sen. SNOWE and me. As she begins her 25th year in the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI now surpasses my personal role model in public service, Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Just as the Great Lady from Maine inspired Sen. SNOWE and me as well as countless other young women of my generation to serve, Senator MIKULSKI inspires the young women of today.

As a new Senator in 1997, I was one of those tutored by Senator MIKULSKI. She taught me the ropes of the appropriations process and instituted regular bipartisan dinners for the women of the Senate.

It has been a privilege to work with Senator MIKULSKI for 14 years. During that time, I have come to know her as a fighter, a trailblazer, and as a dear friend. She is committed to the people of her state and of America.

Senator MIKULSKI is, above all, a hard worker. Growing up in East Baltimore, she learned the value of hard work at her family's grocery store. Her commitment to making a difference in her neighborhood led her to become a social worker, helping at-risk children and the elderly.

Her activism and understanding of community needs led to her first successful run for public office, the Baltimore City Council in 1971. Five years later, she came to Washington as a member of Congress, representing Maryland's 3rd District.

After 10 years of service in the House, she was elected to the Senate in 1986. In so doing, she became the first Democratic Senator elected in her own right. The people of Maryland wisely returned her to office in 1992, 1998, 2004, and again in 2010.

Senator MIKULSKI's longevity is only the preface to her story of exceptional accomplishment. She has fought for increased access to higher education and for improved health care for our seniors. I am proud to have fought at her side on those issues, as well as for increased Alzheimer's research, improved women's health care, and enhanced educational opportunities for nurses.

Working with her on the Appropriations Committee, I have witnessed firsthand how seriously she takes her responsibility to the American taxpayers.

Throughout her life in public service, Senator MIKULSKI has lived by one guiding principle: her obligation is to help our people meet the needs of today as she helps our Nation prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. It is an honor

to congratulate the Great Lady from Maryland for her many years of service, and to wish her many more.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise to honor a distinguished colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who is celebrating a major milestone—today becoming the longest serving female in Senate history.

Elected to the House in 1976 and the Senate in 1986, Senator MIKULSKI is the first woman to win statewide office in Maryland, the first female Democrat to serve in both the House and the Senate, and the first female Democrat elected to the Senate in her own right.

As one of the most effective Senators, Senator MIKULSKI used her experience as a social worker and activist to ardently work on behalf of her constituents giving them a strong voice in the U.S. Senate. A leader in the Senate she has successfully fought for a variety of issues ranging from women's rights to protecting our law enforcement.

Throughout our 8 years of serving together in the House and 24 years in the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI and I have worked on many issues together. We have a strong bipartisan relationship that is reflected in the numerous accomplishments we have achieved working together as the chair and ranking member on the CJS appropriations subcommittee. I have always appreciated Senator MIKULSKI's candor, sense of humor, and willingness to cross party lines to work in the best interest of our Nation.

Mr. President, I congratulate Senator MIKULSKI on reaching this historic milestone today. I am honored to call Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI my colleague but prouder to call her my friend.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI—the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Senate.

It has been an honor to serve with Senator MIKULSKI in my 2 years in this body. She quickly became a dear friend and a valuable mentor—just as she has been for all of her other female colleagues as the dean of the women Senators.

It wasn't until 1932 that Hattie Caraway became the first woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate. And it wasn't until a half century later—1986—that against all odds, BARBARA MIKULSKI became the first Democratic woman ever elected to the Senate in her own right.

Now the longest serving woman in this Chamber's entire history, Senator MIKULSKI is showing just what is possible when you ignore conventional wisdom, never stop fighting for what is right and just, and honor our commitment to the families that elect us every single day.

One of her hallmark battles has been the fight for equal pay for equal work for women. This is not only an issue of

justice, but an economic imperative. Even today, for every dollar a man makes, a woman makes just 78 cents—a disparity that is even worse for women of color. Latino women make just 53 cents, and African-American women make just 62 cents for every dollar a man makes. I know Senator MIKULSKI won't give up until we correct this outrageous injustice.

She also fought to strengthen our laws against domestic violence, and open up access to health screenings and treatment that can save lives. And, she led the fight against insurance companies that made being a woman a pre-existing condition.

Senator MIKULSKI has always fought to protect women's health and a woman's right to choose. Last year, I was proud to stand with her to defeat the dangerous Stupak amendment that would have denied lifesaving reproductive care for the women of this country—a victory we would not have won without Senator MIKULSKI.

In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, “the battle for the individual rights of women is one of long standing, and none of us should countenance anything which undermines it.”

It is that spirit—never backing down in the face of injustice—Senator MIKULSKI is one of the strongest voices we have for women in this country and women around the world.

And every single day she's paving the way for more women in leading roles in America. There still may only be 17 women serving in the Senate today, but with her leadership and her strong voice, Senator MIKULSKI is showing the young women and young girls of this country that women's voices matter and are needed in the public debate.

Whether it is here on Capitol Hill or in State capitols around the country or heading small business or the boardrooms of major companies, Senator MIKULSKI is helping to inspire the next generation of women leaders by showing that our voices solve problems and lead to change.

Each of us owe her a debt of gratitude for her vision and pioneering spirit.

Thank you, Senator MIKULSKI, and congratulations on your historic achievement. It is an honor to work with you, and I hope to serve with you for many years to come.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for her trailblazing career in the U.S. Senate. As we begin the 112th Congress today, Senator MIKULSKI will begin her fifth consecutive Senate term making her the longest serving female Senator in American history. She joins legendary Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith in the history books today. This accomplishment is a testament to her dedication to the State and the people of Maryland, and a commitment to serve which I aim to emulate with my constituents in Missouri. She is, quite simply, a remarkable, dedicated, focused and per-

severant woman and these attributes have led to this wonderful moment in her continued service.

Starting out as a social worker in Baltimore, and later becoming a member of the Baltimore city council, Senator MIKULSKI went on to become a U.S. Representative for the Third Congressional District of Maryland for 10 years. In 1986, she was elected to the U.S. Senate where she has served ever since.

BARBARA MIKULSKI has continuously broken barriers for women and made history in her over 40 years as an elected official. And yet, in this 112th Congress, even as we mark this historic moment for women in the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI carries on her career in such a way that sets aside the pomp and circumstance of making history and instead remains focused on the most basic, pure and selfless form of public service.

In closing, although Senator MIKULSKI's tenure in the Senate as a woman is an important milestone, I believe that it will ultimately be the Senator's leadership fighting for women, children, seniors and veterans which will be her lasting legacy in Congress. I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with Senator MIKULSKI on some of this historic legislation for women and families, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act to protect against pay discrimination, and the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act which expanded health insurance for military families.

I want to congratulate Senator MIKULSKI on her pioneering career in civil service and on making history in the U.S. Senate today; I am humbled to be working on historic legislation alongside my colleague from Maryland.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues in congratulating Senator BARBARA A. MIKULSKI as she becomes the longest serving female Senator in American history.

Senator MIKULSKI and I began our Senate careers in the 1980s, and it has been my privilege to serve with her. We have worked together on many, many issues, including 975 bills. Two hundred eighty-five of those bills passed the Senate and 184 were signed into law, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 in the last Congress. I am proud of our combined accomplishments and to call her my colleague and friend.

It is a great honor to serve with Senator MIKULSKI. Senator MIKULSKI and I have more in common than some know. My life-changing experience with the VISTA program in the 1960s fueled my commitment to public service in much the same way Senator MIKULSKI's experience as a social worker in Baltimore fueled hers. Our early experiences remain the foundation of our shared commitment to quality health care for all people. Senator MIKULSKI and I have worked tirelessly together to expand access to cancer screenings and in-

crease funding for medical research, including Alzheimer's disease. I was proud to stand with Senator MIKULSKI last year to pass historic health care reform. Her commitment to opening doors for all members of our society is to be commended.

Even though she stands at 4'11" and I at 6'7", we have stood eye-to-eye in supporting our veterans. And, we had many opportunities for collaboration as she was working on the Appropriations Committee and I chaired the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is easy to work with someone like Senator MIKULSKI who is so committed to her values and the people she represents.

The first female senator, Rebecca Latimer Felton of Georgia, only held office for 1 day in 1922, having been appointed by Governor Thomas Hardwick upon the death of Senator Thomas Watson. During her first and last Senate address, she said “When the women of the country come in and sit with you, though there may be but a very few in the next few years, I pledge that you will get ability, you will get integrity of purpose, you will get exalted patriotism, and you will get unstinted usefulness.” Rebecca Felton's words forecast Senator MIKULSKI. There is no question that she has brought all of these skills and attributes, and much more, to the U.S. Senate over these last 24 years.

In some ways it is hard to believe Senator MIKULSKI is now the Senate's longest serving female Senator. She does a great job, and I understand she takes on the additional role of mentor to many new female Senators. I am thankful for that contribution which surely strengthens our entire Senate.

The people of Maryland made a wise choice in reelecting this remarkable Senator. I look forward to celebrating her next milestone in just over 2 years when she will become the longest serving female Member in the history of Congress.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and congratulate my good friend from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, on today becoming the longest serving female Senator in the history of the Senate. This is an achievement that takes courage and passion and commitment, three things all of us who know her so well know she has in abundance.

Even more important than honoring my friend on the length of her service today, I believe it is important to recognize what she has done with that service. The senior Senator from Maryland, over her 24 years, has established herself as a trailblazer, a legislator, a leader, and, above all, a fighter for her people and her State. But to me and to all the other women Senators who have followed in her footsteps, she is simply a mentor. She is the Senator who has offered us guidance, taught us to be fearless, and who has set a standard for all women Senators to follow.

From the first time I ever spoke to Senator MIKULSKI, one thing was clear.

She didn't run for the Senate to be one woman Senator. She ran to be one of many. I first came to the Senate in 1992, the so-called year of the woman. I can remember a lot of the press that year being about how our incoming class of four women Senators would open the door to changes in the culture of the Senate. But when I got here, I quickly realized that door had not only already been opened, it had been broken down by Senator MIKULSKI. She was the first female Democrat to serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and she was also the very first one to take all the new women Senators under her wing. Senator MIKULSKI realized back then there was no rule book for women in the Senate. So she took it upon herself to help guide the way. She drew on her own experiences to make the transition for all of us easier. She organized seminars, taught us about working together, taught us about the legislative process and the rules on the floor and the many more subtle rules off the floor. In short, she showed us the ropes, and she has been doing it ever since.

But her work doesn't end with helping women Senators get their foot in the door. I don't know if it is because she was a social worker before she came to Washington, but one thing Senator MIKULSKI knows is that relationships matter. That is why she has worked to make sure that once women Senators get here, we are working together on both sides of the aisle. It is why she brings Republican and Democratic women together for dinners, so we can find common ground and help solve problems. While Senator MIKULSKI knows it is important and courageous to be the first, she also understands the first ones have to be responsible and successful so others can and will follow. It is because she has done her job so well that other women have been able to follow in her footsteps, and she has done her job well.

Senator MIKULSKI is here today as the longest serving woman Senator not by accident or by happenstance. She is here because she earned it, because the people of her State know she is an indispensable champion for their causes, because she works across party lines, because she delivers results and because, as she has said to us so many times, she is always ready to square her shoulders, put on her lipstick, and suit up for the people who need it most.

Whether it is leading the fight for the very first bill President Obama signed into law that guarantees women cannot be paid less than men for doing the same job or fighting for seniors who rely on Social Security or delivering investments for firefighters, police officers, and first responders or standing up for all those in Maryland who depend on her State's environmental resources for their livelihood, there are few others I want in my corner like her and there are few others who work as hard as she does to give a voice to those who would not otherwise have it.

Since Senator MIKULSKI was elected in 1986, she has helped guide the way for 22 more women Senators. Today there are 17. But she will also be the first one to tell us we are not yet where we need to be, that more women need to serve in this body. That is why she has built a team of women Senators behind her that continues to grow—every generation, every election, every year.

Today, Senator MIKULSKI makes history by serving longer than any other woman. But I know many years from now women will have achieved a larger, more representative role in this body than we now have. Senator MIKULSKI will be at the very top of the list of people to thank, the person who not only cut the path but who went back and guided so many of us down it. Thanks to her, one day the remarkable accomplishment we are celebrating today may no longer be such a remarkable thing for a woman to achieve; it will be commonplace. That will be her true and lasting legacy.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues in honoring my mentor and dear friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, on becoming the longest serving woman in the history of the Senate. For more than 24 trailblazing years, Senator MIKULSKI has been one of the Senate's fiercest advocates for women, families, and for the people of Maryland who have now elected her to the Senate for five consecutive terms. Before she arrived in Washington in 1977 as the Representative from the Third District of Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI already had a distinguished career in public service, working in Baltimore as a social worker, then a community activist, and as a city council member. When she was first sworn in as a Member of the House of Representatives, she was one of just 18 female Members. When she entered the Senate 10 years later as the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right, she was one of just two women in this upper Chamber. But while those numbers have intimidated most, they only motivated and emboldened Senator MIKULSKI. She soon impressed her colleagues, as she continues to do today, with her work ethic, determination, keen understanding of issues, humor, and her commitment to her constituents.

She has broken many barriers in her career. She was the first woman ever elected statewide in Maryland, the first to chair an appropriations subcommittee, and the first woman to serve in the Democratic leadership. If we are no longer surprised today when we see women in power in Washington, it is only because we had pioneers such as BARBARA MIKULSKI. As she recently told CNN: "I might be the first, but I don't want to be the last."

There are now 17 women serving in the Senate, and Senator MIKULSKI, the dean of the women, is our leader and our champion. I was both humbled and honored to have her escort me when I was sworn in as a Senator 2 years ago.

That was just the beginning of her ongoing mentorship. Although the Senate can often be bogged down by partisanship, I appreciate that Senator MIKULSKI encourages and creates an environment of teamwork, respect, and friendship. But while we today mark her place in history as a woman Senator, she is widely regarded as one of the most respected, accomplished, and effective public servants in all of Congress. To use Senator MIKULSKI's own words, she showed it is not about gender, it is about agenda.

She is one of the Senate's strongest advocates for science and technology and the importance of investing in innovation to spur our economy. In fact, earlier this year, I was watching a 3D movie about the Hubble telescope at the Smithsonian with my daughter, a scientist, and there was Senator MIKULSKI featured in the movie for her role in preserving the telescope's budget, a feat she calls one of her proudest accomplishments.

She also wrote the Spousal Anti-Imposition Act, which protects seniors across our country from going bankrupt while paying for a spouse's nursing home care.

She shepherded through the Lilly Ledbetter Act, which helps to ensure that no matter your gender, your race, your national origin, religion, age, or disability, you will receive equal pay for equal work.

She fought tenaciously for her important amendment to health care reform legislation ensuring that a comprehensive list of women's preventive services, such as screenings for breast and cervical cancer, would be covered with no added out-of-pocket expenses.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI for her mentorship, her leadership, and her fierce belief in the empowerment of women in our communities and in public office. I congratulate her on this tremendous accomplishment, and I join my colleagues in looking forward to many more years of her distinguished service.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about my dear friend, dear colleague, someone I so admire—Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI—on her remarkable accomplishments. Today, she took the oath of office, the Senator from Maryland, and made history as few others can make. Senator MIKULSKI has long been affectionately known here in the Senate as the dean of the women. Now she is officially the longest serving female Senator in the history of this great Nation.

This distinction adds to the considerable respect and admiration I already have for Senator MIKULSKI and who she is and what she does. BARB, like me, came from a decidedly middle-class beginning. We often talk about her dad, Willie, who owned a grocery store in east Baltimore, and my grandfather and dad—Jake and Abe—who were exterminators. They were similar because they were people of the community. BARB would tell me that people

would come in during difficult times—they had lost their job—and Willie would say, pay me when you can. It wasn't quite the same with my family, but my grandfather and then father, like him, felt people who had roaches or rats crawling through their little houses and apartments, when they couldn't pay, shouldn't have that service cut off for them.

So we were both infused with that great upwardly mobile, middle-class, help your neighbor, be part of a neighborhood, be part of a community feeling. BARB started her career as a social worker and made a name for herself when she led the fight to stop a highway project from destroying a historic section of her community. That is what launched her into politics. Like our best politicians, she came from the community. She didn't decide to be a politician, she came from the community, took on a fight, and saw how she could make government a friend to the people. So she went from the Baltimore City Council to the House of Representatives, and then, of course, to this august Chamber.

Throughout that time, she has never lost sight of from where she came. She has fought tirelessly and effectively to protect Maryland's seniors, ensuring they have access to an affordable, healthy, and happy environment. She has been a leading advocate of medical research, securing billions in funding for cutting-edge research into things as diverse as breast cancer and Alzheimer's. She has helped countless women and veterans get the health care they need, and the list goes on and on.

Let me say one other thing. As somebody who believes that we have to focus on the middle class, talk to the middle class, and have middle-class feelings and values infused in our bones, no other Senator does that as well as Senator MIKULSKI because it is who she is and because—being the essentially humble and modest person she is—she has never lost sight of where she has come from.

So Senator BARB—as her constituents know her—you are beloved here as much as you are beloved in your home State of Maryland. Your sense of humor, your tenacity, your work ethic, your love of community, and your mother's crab cake recipe are unrivaled.

It is an honor to serve alongside such an accomplished woman. Senator MIKULSKI, congratulations again. You are a great Senator and a great friend.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their very warm words. Today, when I walked down the aisle, escorted by my esteemed partner, BEN CARDIN, my former and beloved colleague, Senator Paul Sarbanes—when I walked down that aisle, I walked into the history books.

I never set out to do that and, for me, it is a great honor to join Margaret

Chase Smith in the history books. As Senator SNOWE has said, and also Senator COLLINS on a number of occasions, Margaret Chase Smith and I share many things in common. Today they wear the rose, but those two outstanding Senators from Maine also wear the values of Maine and the values of Margaret Chase Smith: a strong belief in constituent service, staying close to the people, focusing on jobs for the State, being a strong supporter of innovation, and a fearless, unrelenting streak of independence. I hope I am like her. I know they bear that same set of characteristics.

For me, it is not how long I serve but how well I serve. Service for me is about being connected, connected to my constituents, staying close to them so they do not fall between the cracks, meeting their day-to-day needs and also looking at the long-range needs of the Nation.

Nobody comes here by themselves. Later on today I will thank my friends and supporters. But I want to thank the wonderful people who shaped me, the wonderful nuns who taught me, the school Sisters of Notre Dame and the Sisters of Mercy who taught me about leadership, who taught me about service, who taught me about my faith in Matthew 5, the Beatitude that said hunger and thirst after justice.

But today as I stand here, I also think about my mother and father. I am filled with great emotion. I wish my mother and father were here today. They worked so hard for my sisters and I to have an education. But though they are not here with me today in the Senate gallery, I know they are in my heart. I want them to know they are with me when I fight for what we believed in.

My father ran a small grocery store. Everybody loved my father and mother. They were known for honesty and integrity. When my father opened the grocery store every morning, he would say: Good morning. Can I help you? And that is the kind of values I bring to the Senate.

Our family came from Poland. When my great-grandmother arrived in this country she had little money in her pocket, but she had a big dream in her heart. That dream was the American dream where through hard work, hard work and dedication, you could make something of yourself. You could own a home, you could have a job, you could get an education for your family. She did not even have the right to vote, and in this great country of ours, in three generations, I joined the Senate. She knew about hard work in terms of economic opportunity. She did not think too much about the Constitution, but I do—particularly that first amendment.

I got into politics fighting a highway. In other countries they put dissidents in jail. In the United States of America, because of the first amendment, they put you in the United States Senate. God bless America.

When I came to the Senate, though I was all by myself, I said I was never

alone because of the wonderful way the men have treated me. The history of the women in the Senate is short—I might add, 4-foot-11 short. But everything we have done we have been able to work on together.

I fought for seniors to try to pass, and passed, the Spousal Impoverishment Act to make sure the very cruel rules of our government did not force people into bankruptcy when they had to turn to a nursing home. I worked to pass the Lilly Ledbetter bill to give equal pay for equal work; our wonderful work on women's health, where we broke barriers in terms of research. We know we have saved lives because of what we have done in research in our preventive health amendment, and for young people in national service.

I have also fought for Maryland—whether it is cleaning up the bay or fighting for jobs in the Port of Baltimore, whether it is looking out for the Goddard Space Agency or doubling the funding at the National Institutes of Health. For me, again, it is all about service. I am fighting for a stronger economy and a safer America. For me it is not about the past, it is about the future. Though I break one record today, I want to work with all of you on both sides of the aisle to break other records.

Let's break that high record of unemployment in our country. Let's break that record of low graduation rates in our high schools. Let's break the record of the longest war in American history and bring our troops home as safely as we can. I want to build a strong economy.

I am going to work to build a strong economy, an innovation economy so we are able to move ahead. Today when I took my oath, I pledged that I want to help America be great again with a renewed self-confidence and achievement. I want us to be a global leader in this innovation economy. I want to help America be excellent again so we not only win Nobel Prizes—and I want us to win lots of them—but win international markets and win lots of them. I want to promote a sense of community where we look out for each other and for our community and where the people of the United States know they have a government on their side.

I will close with a quote from George Bernard Shaw.

I am convinced that my life belongs to the whole community; and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can, for the harder I work, the more I live.

I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before turning it over to future generations.

Someday in the future, someone else will break this record. Let's work together to break those other records.

Thanks for everything. God bless America.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

ELECTING GARY B. MYRICK AS THE SECRETARY FOR THE MAJORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk, and I ask that it now be considered.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 5) electing Gary B. Myrick, of Virginia, as Secretary of the Majority of the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 5) reads as follows:

S. RES. 5

Resolved, That Gary B. Myrick of Virginia be, and he is hereby, elected Secretary for the Majority of the Senate.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 95-521, appoints Morgan J. Frankel as Senate legal counsel for a term of service to expire at the end of the 113th Congress.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 6) to make effective appointment of Senate Legal Counsel.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 6) reads as follows:

S. RES. 6

That the appointment of Morgan J. Frankel of the District of Columbia to be Senate Legal Counsel, made by the President pro tempore this day, shall become effective as of January 7, 2011, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 95-521, appoints Patricia Mack Bryan as deputy Senate legal counsel for a term of service to expire at the end of the 113th Congress.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the President pro tempore will now assume the presidency of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 7) to make effective appointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 7) reads as follows:

S. RES. 7

That the appointment of Patricia Mack Bryan of Virginia to be Deputy Senate Legal Counsel, made by the President pro tempore this day, shall become effective as of January 3, 2011, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send to the desk en bloc 12 unanimous-consent requests, and I ask for their consideration en bloc, that the requests be agreed to en bloc, that the motions to reconsider the adoption of these requests be laid upon the table, and that they appear separately in the RECORD.

Before the Chair rules, I would like to point out that these requests are routine and are done at the beginning of each new Congress. They entail issues such as authority for the Ethics Committee to meet and other such matters.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 112th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 112th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7½ minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10 minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the 112th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority and minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives and his four assistants be given the privileges of the floor during the 112th Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 112th Congress to file reports during adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 112th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and joint resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments to House bills or resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 112th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment, the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives, that they be appropriately referred and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 112th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the journal clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 112th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 112th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING GROUP—LOWER LEVEL EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. One of the issues we must reform is the confirmation process in the Senate. I have heard from a number of Senators on both sides of the aisle who think we should address this.

Clearly, all Presidents are entitled to choose well-qualified individuals to