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Mary L. Landrieu

U.S. SENATOR FROM LOUISIANA

TRIBUTES

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Mary L. Landrieu

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Mary L. Landrieu

United States Senator
1997–2015

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BIOGRAPHY

MARY L. LANDRIEU has been fighting and winning for Louisiana since she was first elected to the Louisiana State Legislature at the age of 23. After serving 8 years as a State representative and two terms as State treasurer, in 1996 she became the first woman from Louisiana elected to a full term in the U.S. Senate. Senator LANDRIEU was the chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committees. The nonpartisan Congress.org ranked Senator LANDRIEU as the tenth most effective legislator in the Senate.

In 2014, Senator LANDRIEU was appointed chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. She became the first woman to lead the committee and the first Louisiana Senator to hold the gavel since J. Bennett Johnston nearly 20 years prior. The Senate Energy Committee sets policy for the Nation's oil and gas industry, the top job creator and economic engine for Louisiana. In 2006, Senator LANDRIEU spearheaded the landmark Domenici-Landrieu Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). The bill expanded oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico by more than 8 million acres. It also shares the revenues produced offshore—an estimated $6 billion annually—with Louisiana to fund the State's 50-year, $50 billion coastal master plan to protect Louisiana's coastal communities from storm surges and coastal erosion.

Senator LANDRIEU was the leading voice in Washington for the gulf coast recovery effort. In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failures of the Federal levee system, she secured more than $120 billion in recovery dollars and worked extensively to jump start recovery projects. She was committed to reforming the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure the Nation's disaster response arm is speedy and effective the next time a disaster strikes the United States, be it natural or manmade.

In the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, Senator LANDRIEU passed the RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act, a bipartisan, regional approach to address the immense economic and environmental damage to America's working coast. The RESTORE Act directs 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties paid by BP directly to the gulf coast. This represents the largest single investment in environmental restoration in our Nation's history. Senator LANDRIEU helped build a strong, bipartisan, hard-working coalition of Congress Members to pass the RESTORE Act through Congress with overwhelming support.

As the former chair of the Small Business Committee, Senator LANDRIEU led the effort to ensure all small businesses have access to capital and contracts, superior health insurance at a low cost, and the resources needed to help boost our economy and guarantee America's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

As one of the chairs on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator LANDRIEU was a strong and effective voice for Louisiana. In 2012, the Senate appointed Senator LANDRIEU chair of the Appropriations Committee's important Subcommittee on Homeland Security. This subcommittee is responsible for drafting legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security's 20 offices and 7 subagencies. The Appropriations Committee is considered the most powerful panel on Capitol Hill. From this seat, she fought for Louisiana's jobs and economic interests and the funding the State needed to rebuild from the 2005 and 2008 hurricanes.

Senator LANDRIEU is married to Frank Snellings of Monroe, LA, and has two children and one grandson.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, it is my pleasure to take a few minutes on the floor to give a farewell message, and I thank you for your courtesies. I begin with a Scripture, Philippians 4:7, New American Standard Bible, that reads: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Truly for the first time in my adult life I have felt that extraordinary peace about something that was unexpected, but is certainly something that I accept. It has really been amazing as a Christian, as an adult, and as a leader to find myself in this place in a time that should be a time of sadness, but all I can feel is actual joy. It is quite amazing.

It has never happened to me before, so I thought it would be wonderful to share—with so many of my friends, supporters, family, staff, and colleagues listening in—for a few minutes to say that it is absolutely true, and I am a testimony to this extraordinary peace since just a few days before the election and since then. I think it is because I feel and know that God has called me to another place.

Before being a Senator, a wife, and a daughter, I am a Christian, and my faith really is central to my life. My parents always taught me to put my faith where it belongs—in God himself. So it is really with that sense of gratitude and joy that I have been given an opportunity to serve my State, my region, and my country for now almost 34 years—which is quite amazing—having started at a very young age and still being relatively young.

So let me just share some remarks about that time, and particularly the time here in the Senate. I want to begin by thanking my family, and particularly my extraordinary husband Frank, who has been a partner and, as I said on election night, not only an encouraging and supportive partner but one who has literally egged me on. When I wanted to quit, he would say, "No, you have to continue to serve." He is not only an accomplished lawyer and professional, but also an elected official in his own right. He came from a family

that was dedicated to public service, having both of his parents being very active in party politics—first the Republican Party and then the Democratic Party. But that is a whole other story. They are both strong civil rights leaders—my husband as well—and are always encouraging me and are willing to share the burdens of public life as well as sharing in the great joy.

Our son Connor is now 23 years old, and our daughter Mary Shannon is now 17. The reason I mention that is because Connor was 5 when we were elected to the Senate. Mary Shannon was adopted the 1st year we were here. On election night, she looked at me—and she is just so beautiful at 17—and she said, "Mom, it is going to be a little strange. I have only known you as a Senator." So I warned her that now I am going to be a full-time mom. This is going to be a real problem for her. She is not looking forward to it.

To our new daughter-in-law Emily, and especially to our precious little Maddox Parker Snellings, who many people saw on election night—now, Maddox gets the distinction. He is 10 months old, but he gives me the most joy, and I used to keep a picture of him during all my debates. There were only three, as you all will remember, but I would keep a picture of him because my staff kept telling me, "You have to smile more." I kept saying, "But I can't, because I am really aggravated." They said, "No, you have to smile." So my solution was to put a picture of Maddox on my podium and, of course, I then smiled through the whole debate. That is a trick for those who will be continuing to debate.

To my mother and father, who are the light of not only our family but the light of our community, the light of the Nation in many ways—they had 9 children, 37 grandchildren, and now 6 great-grandchildren. They are in wonderful health, they are watching right now, and I can only say they are two of the most extraordinary individuals I have ever known. Our family is truly blessed by their sacrificial leadership.

Let me also mention my eight siblings—eight brothers and sisters: Mark, Melanie, Michelle, Mitchell, Madeleine, Martin, Melinda, and Maurice, Jr.—all M's. That is another story. There are all of our spouses, my nieces and nephews, who campaigned with me up until the last day. My godchild Sasha literally knocked on doors with me. I was teaching her how to knock on doors before the campaign was over so the tradition could carry on in our own neighborhood where we

have lived since I was 5 years old—Broadmoor in New Orleans.

When I first got here 18 years ago, I literally could not find the side door. I didn't know anything. I wasn't even expecting to be here. It was kind of like a dream that I got here, because I had run for Governor, wanted to be the Governor, and served 16 years in my State. I knew that was what I was being called to do—and I see Lamar Alexander—to change our education system, to do some coastal work, and then I landed here. But I literally knew nothing of how to be a Senator.

I stumbled a great deal in my first years. But I want to thank my chiefs of staff, Norma Jane Sabiston, Ron Faucheux, Jason Matthews, Jane Campbell, and Don Cravins. I had five of the most remarkable chiefs of staff, who, with me, learned how to do this job and to do it well. We never forget where we came from, and they are still—all of them—with me, and all of us are still working to make our State the very best that it can be and to make our country the very best that it can be.

To three staffers who have been with me for almost 20 years—Alicia Williams is the longest serving office manager, I think, in the Senate. She was here when I arrived and stayed with me. She was with Bennett Johnston. T. Bradley Keith has been with me for 22 years as a former staffer in a former life, before I was a Senator, and now as my longtime State director. And Shannon Langlois has been, I think, with the Senate for almost 30 years. She is a caseworker. She was, again, with Bennett Johnston and stayed with me. She has literally given her life to thousands, hundreds of thousands of cases in Louisiana and trained every caseworker that I had for 18 years, and they just did phenomenal work.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record my current staff, all of whom are here—my personal staff, my energy staff, and my homeland security staff.

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

PERSONAL STAFF OF MARY LANDRIEU

Alexander Damato, Alex Sewell, Alicia Williams, Alyson Azodeh, Andrew Holleman, Ashley Scott, Christina Jones, Christopher Etienne, DerKirra Wilkerson, Don Cravins, Eva Kemp-Melder, Jaren Hill, James "Wes" Kungel, Jim Simpson, Katie Lewallen, Lauren Spangler, Leslie Leavoy, Libby Whitbeck, Matthew Lehner, Marianna Knister, Megan Blanco.

Rob Sawicki, Ross Nodurft, Will Harris, Whitney Reitz, Zach Butterworth, Zephranie Buetow, Kelsey Teo, Meghann Morin, Shannon Langlois, T. Bradley Keith, Terrence Lockett, Sherae' Hunter, Laverne Saulny, Cathleen Berthelot, Zach Monroe, Tani Bradford, LeNelle Williford, Michael Jackson, Mark Herbert, Darlene Manuel.

ENERGY COMMITTEE STAFF

Elizabeth "Liz" Craddock, Afton Zaunbrecher, Aisha Johnson, Allen Paul Stayman, Bryan Petit, Caroline Bruckner, Clayton Allen, Dan Adamson, Darla Ripchensky, David Brooks, David Gillers, Dominic Taylor, Elizabeth Weiner, Fayenisha Matthews, Herman Bubba Gesser III, Jan Brunner, Jonathon Burpee, Kristen Granier, Lindsay McDonough, Mark Tiner, Megan Brewster, Meghan Conklin, Paul Davis, Renae Black, Sallie Derr, Sam Edward Fowler, Sa'Rah Hamm, Will Dempster.

HOMELAND APPROPRIATIONS STAFF

Stephanie Gupta, Drenan Dudley, Scott Nance, Chip Walgren, Colin MacDermott, Eric Bader.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I want to thank Don Cravins, again, as my chief of staff; Liz Craddock, staff director of my Energy Committee; and Stephanie Gupta, head of homeland security. I know I am leaving them in good hands with what they are going to be doing in the future and with the great leadership that remains here.

I only have a few minutes, so I will just run through a couple of the highlights of some of the accomplishments that I am most proud of. I want to take this opportunity to thank so many who helped, because the one thing I have learned that most certainly is true, is that if you want to accomplish really big things here—really great things, generational things—you most certainly cannot do that alone. So the first thing you need to do is look for a really good partner—and I mean a partner that will be with you through thick and thin. Sometimes you are lucky enough to find those kinds of partners, and I found them on both sides of the aisle.

The first major piece of legislation I introduced was something that was in my heart for so long, and that was the Conservation and Reinvestment Act. The cosponsors of that bill, amazingly, were Frank Murkowski from Alaska, Trent Lott from Mississippi, John Breaux from Louisiana, and Senator Dianne Feinstein from California. Chris Dodd joined me a few days later after we introduced it—and Ron Wyden, Chris Bond, John Warner, and Thad Cochran, just to name a few.

At the end of this effort—although this particular bill didn't pass; we missed it literally by inches, and I will describe what that was in a minute—we had 4,500 organiza-

tions throughout the country, from the Sierra Club to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and everyone in between in a broad coalition to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Lamar Alexander knows more about this than I could ever know, and he will tell you one day the details about the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Udalls and the Udalls' fathers were very instrumental in the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It was a promise made but never kept—that this country would set aside about $900 million a year to purchase land, to build our parks, and to secure recreational opportunities. This country is so blessed—more than any on Earth—with the amount of natural resources we have, and we have not lived up to that promise.

So I introduced this bill as a young legislator. John Breaux said, "You don't even know what you are doing; how are you introducing a bill like this?" I said, "I don't know, but I am just going for it because I believe in it." So we never passed it, but it has been in part of almost every piece of energy legislation—in pieces and parts since that day we introduced that. I am very hopeful that war will go on under Senator Murkowski, the daughter of Frank Murkowski, and Maria Cantwell, who in many ways got to the Senate because she defeated one of the gentlemen who opposed us on this bill and used it as a platform to get here. So I know she will be committed to finishing the work.

The bill did three things. It fully funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a trust fund that will go on for generations. It would fully fund coastal restoration, which is so important not just to Louisiana, because we are literally falling away into the Gulf of Mexico, but it will help Sheldon Whitehouse in his work. It will help Dick Durbin along the Great Lakes, and it will help Cory Booker in New Jersey. If you allocate the funding correctly, it will be grants that these coastal communities can use until we figure out how to clean our atmosphere and how to stop the tremendous pressures that are coming on our coast. Louisiana knows this. We have experienced the worst disasters literally in the history of our country, and they are only getting worse. I will talk about that more in a minute.

But it was because we had laid the groundwork for CARA, Pete Domenici literally felt so sorry for me—he knew how hard we had worked and the coalition was so disappointed when we lost—that he directed, literally with the stroke of a pen, $1 billion to the gulf coast in the energy bill for 2005.

That money was divided 50 percent to Louisiana and 50 percent to the other States.

Now, I can promise everyone here that for the $500 million that went to Louisiana, we can account for every penny of it. We know exactly where it went, and we put that down as a downpayment to restoring our coast, which doesn't just belong to us—it belongs to the whole Nation. This is the greatest, the seventh largest delta on the planet. It is what Thomas Jefferson leveraged the whole entire Treasury of the United States to purchase. It is something worth fighting for. We would not be a country without the Mississippi Delta, and we could never have found our way west if we couldn't have supplied the great center of this Nation with the commerce they needed.

Every State along this river—19 of them—use this river and understand what I am talking about. Amy Klobuchar understands this. She is at the top of this river, and I am at the bottom, and we have talked a lot about how important that corridor is. That needs to continue.

Then there was the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which I finally passed with Pete Domenici's help, who was my dear friend and one of the most wonderful leaders I have ever worked with. He came from a family with eight children. We had nine, and we are both Catholic and came from the same sort of background. He served with such passion. So he joined with me in passing the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which finally secured a permanent stream of revenue for coastal restoration and protection.

But as Lamar Alexander knows, it left out the land and water, and it left out wildlife. We just couldn't lift it all, so that needs to be corrected.

Finally, there is the RESTORE Act, which I worked on with my colleagues when the BP oil spill killed 11 people in the gulf and spilled 5 million barrels of oil in the gulf. Thanks go to Barbara Boxer, this extraordinary woman who has been a partner with me. We think very differently about the world. We see things very differently. California is very different from Louisiana. But I will say one thing about Barbara Boxer. If I had to be in a foxhole with someone, I would want to be with her because she never stops fighting. She and I are very much alike in that regard. Once we set our minds to something there is no dividing us.

People asked why did I send her money for her reelection? Why did I raise so much money from Louisiana? I said that I would do it again because when no one would stand up—

well, not no one, but if she hadn't stood up when that BP oil spill went down, and said, "I am chair of this committee and I believe the gulf coast deserves this funding," we just wouldn't have had it. It is as simple as that. People do not know how powerful a chairman is here. When a chairman makes up their mind and they say this is what we are going to do, the rest of the committee, for the most part, goes along. And so Barbara said that.

Senator Vitter, who is the ranking member on that committee, put his shoulder to the wheel, and we were able to get—well, it is still in court, but we think—a serious downpayment to recover from one of the great ecological disasters of our State, of our country, which is the loss of the gulf coast. This just isn't in Louisiana. This is Texas and Mississippi, and it is going to affect parts of the whole country. But we are on the mend.

I came here to do that work. I came to find money. I found it, and we are going to continue that work. I am thrilled to work with so many of you to get that done.

On education—Lamar has to leave, but I am glad he is here because I found a great soulmate in Lamar Alexander—former Secretary of Education, former Governor, a Presidential candidate, and absolutely extraordinarily committed to finding a better way for our children in America to be educated. As proud as we are of the public school system, at the turn of the century, when people in the world were wondering how to build the middle class and lots of countries were struggling with how to do that, America knew. America knew that if you educated your citizens—women, boys, and girls; not just boys, which is what half the world still does, which is a tragedy—if we open up our schools for universal, free education, along with other things, it would lift your country to greatness unsurpassed in the history of the world.

What breaks my heart is to walk into schools today—and Mark Warner knows this because he was Governor of Virginia—and see children's eyes just completely dulled, sitting there completely bored, teachers who are just sort of going through the motions. It breaks my heart because I know that not only does it limit their lives but it limits the potential of our Nation.

With Lamar Alexander and a handful of Democrats, I was proud to work with Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush to pass a series of laws. Evan Bayh comes to mind, Joe Lieberman, John Breaux, and a group of us stood up and said, "It is time to stop sending money to the States without

accountability." If we need to send money, we need to hold States accountable, and we need to give opportunities for choice to parents and public charter schools.

I am reluctant to go too far on vouchers. You have heard my speech on that. You heard Senator Feinstein's speech on that. But both of us have agreed to support some kinds of strategic vouchers that help poor kids get out of failing schools until we can fix them.

Most important, I support high-performing public charter schools, and I will continue to fight that for the rest of my days. I thank all of you who helped on that and particularly Tom Carper on the Democratic side and Lamar Alexander. Cory Booker has been an amazing leader and will hopefully continue on that. I thank Dick Durbin, who is on Appropriations. I had to twist his arm a little bit on some of it, but he ended up coming around and has been an amazing fighter for the right kinds of public schools that serve the children first and the bureaucracy and administration second. I respect teachers. I respect administrators. But our schools should work for the children and their families who so desperately want them to have a great education.

The third issue I wish to speak about, which is a legacy issue, is adoption. I hope I can get through this without tearing up. I don't know why I have always had such passion for this issue.

My mother had nine children without one single problem. As a young child, I remember my aunt adopted two children. I think it might have been that; I can't remember exactly. I started to think about all the children in the world who don't have parents. Maybe I was just always so proud when I filled out those forms in Catholic school. I can remember sitting there filling them out: Are your parents divorced or married? I loved checking "married." How many siblings do you have? I loved putting "eight." I was always so proud of my family.

I thought, what do children without parents do? I just could not imagine. So I got very passionate about it. I ended up, of all things, marrying an orphan. My husband was adopted out of an orphanage. So I thought, yes, this is going in the right direction. I thought I would adopt children. I thought he could not say no since he himself was adopted, and so this would work out. Sure enough, we ended up adopting two children.

But this was my passion before I met my husband and before I even thought about adopting. It was as if God put this in my heart, so I have taken it and carried it.

I thank Dave Camp; Jim Oberstar, who is deceased; Tom Bliley from Virginia, who is a great leader among us; Larry Craig, who is no longer here, who served as my cochair; and Senator Jesse Helms. Amazingly, I didn't know to be afraid of Jesse Helms; I thought he was a really nice guy. Later, everybody had to tell me how hard he was to get along with. But I went up to him, and I thought he would surely want to help because he had adopted a child. I don't think a lot of people realize that. Sure enough he did, and we passed a great treaty together that serves as the model for international adoption today. Joe Biden was the ranking member on the committee. With Jesse Helms' and Joe Biden's support, we passed a great treaty years ago, and we are still in the process of making that possible and working it through.

The accomplishments are really quite long. I will only say that Bob Casey worked on and took up the cause of the adoption tax credit when he got here—I am thrilled and hope we can keep it. I would like to say to Amy Klobuchar how much I appreciate her agreeing to step in and take over the leadership of the Adoption Caucus on this side and Roy Blunt, who I think will take it up on the Republican side and continue this great work.

There are over 100,000 children who are waiting for families in the United States. There are over 500,000 children in foster care. These children think it is their fault they are there, and it is not. It is not their fault that their family disintegrated around them. It is not their fault that they got pregnant at 11 and were kicked out of their house. Instead of the family wrapping that child in their arms and helping them to grow, they just kicked them out on the street. It is not their fault.

We need to realize that God does not make trash. He never has, and he never will. Everybody he has made has a purpose and dignity, and we need to honor that and do better work. I have spent a lot of time here on it. I am going to continue to do so. I will never stop working on it. I am very proud of the work we have done.

On energy very quickly and then finally disaster recovery. I couldn't have been prouder when I became the chair of this committee. It was quite a miracle. I didn't expect it. I never thought I would last long enough to become the chair because there were so many people ahead of me. It kind of

worked out when Max Baucus left to go to China and Tim Johnson was retiring that it fell to me. It has been my great joy for 9 months to serve as chair, with Lisa Murkowski as my ranking member. Of course, I worked with her father. I didn't sit next to him because I was a junior member, but I worked with him closely, and it has been wonderful working with her. I am so proud that Maria Cantwell will step up and take that leadership. I know the two of them work beautifully together. They do see the world differently, but they are two women who know how to compromise and who will be respectful of each other and find a way for our country to move forward.

I can tell you all that in my whole life—which isn't that long—it has been a pretty good run in public office. There has never been a time when America has been closer to energy independence. What that means to our country is beyond description. We don't have to listen to parts of the world that don't hold our values. We can lift up our country. We can move forward. It has to be with a combination of fossil fuels, weaning our way to a greener, cleaner environment, and manufacturing right here in America.

I hope you all will put down the swords and pick up the plow and really plow together because this is an amazing opportunity for our country. I sure hope we don't miss it. It is going to benefit and make the whole country, not just our part of the country, more prosperous.

People desperately want to move up into the middle class and stay there and not feel so fragile and feel as if they can have the manufacturing jobs and good energy jobs and really eliminate some of the geopolitical nightmares we have been in, fighting wars for oil. It has to come to an end.

Finally, I will say a word about disaster recovery. When I got to the Senate, my husband and I were looking at each other saying: How did we even end up here? We had no idea. When Katrina hit, it became very clear that this is why I needed to be here.

I had been an appropriator since I was 23 years old. I knew a little bit about budgets. I knew a little bit about how the system worked. I knew how the State and local governments depended on the Federal Government for so much funding. I understood the power of HUD and the power of housing and the power of building schools and levees and the Corps of Engineers. So I was perfectly positioned to be able to lead the effort for my State, and they desperately needed

a leader. I wasn't perfect. I made lots of mistakes. But I wasn't afraid to try because that is all you can do.

The devastation was so great and it was so unbelievable. Eighty percent of the east bank of the city and much of Jefferson Parish—not quite as bad as New Orleans—and all of St. Bernard—67,000 people in St. Bernard lost everything. Everyone in the Lower Ninth Ward lost everything, which is like a small city unto itself. In New Orleans east, which is like a small city unto itself, 60,000 people lost every school, every house. It was unbelievable.

I say to my colleagues: Thank you for being there for us. I know I aggravated you to death. I know I never stopped asking. But you were the only hope because there was just no way these communities could recover. New Orleans has been there for 300 years. You have heard me say this: We didn't move down there recently to go sunbathing or to build condos; we have been down there for 300 years. The city is going to stay there. The region is going to stay there. Had this government just invested a little bit of the money back that we have given it over time—from our energy resources, from our manufacturing, from the wealth we have created along that great mouth of the river—if the country had just given us a little bit of money—$500 million here, $500 million there—and built levees that wouldn't have broken in 52 places, we wouldn't have had $140 billion in damage.

So I went to Robert Byrd because President Bush was not that forward-leaning—I will just leave it at that. There will be a lot more in my book about it, but I will just leave it at that, not very forward-leaning. The person I went to was Robert Byrd. In his old age, he was so wise. He just looked at me. He didn't say much at that time, but he just took my hand and he said, "I will be there with you."

He was the chair of the Appropriations Committee, so that meant something. He helped me write things in a bill that could probably never be possible today. That was when chairmen understood the power to help people to heal wounds and to bring hope and to be compassionate. That is what government is there to do. If government is not there when you have lost everything, then what in the heck is the use of having it?

So we hope we will be able to repay this country for the investments that have been made, and we will. We will do our best. With all of the people who come to New Orleans and all the conventions that come—and we hope we bring joy and happiness when people come—we hope to pay our way

and to pay this back over time for what you have done to help us. We are doing a good job of helping ourselves by planning better, doing more smart-growth, sustainable development, building our levees to the point where they won't break again, and we will continue to do that.

So those are some of the legacy pieces I have worked on. It is kind of amazing that these were the things that were in my heart when I was a little girl. I didn't learn this when I was a Senator. I can remember taking a bus when I was in the eighth grade down to the coast and looking at LaFourche Parish for the first time, and for a girl from the poor part of uptown, I kept looking at the nuns who took me, and I said, "What world is this?" I had no idea about Bayou LaFourche.

When I got to be a Senator, I remembered LaFourche, the bayou, and I remembered how fragile it looked to me even as a child, and I thought, if I can do anything to save this place, I will. I have spent a lot of my time saving it, and it is stronger now. It is still not completely safe, but it is much stronger now.

I tutored in public school. My passion started when the nuns of Ursuline sent me to tutor in a public school, and the little girl whom I tutored, who was my age, couldn't read. I can remember going home to my mother and saying, "This is the strangest thing. I just met a little girl. She is my age, and she can't read. Mama, is that possible, that children don't know how to read?"

I can remember her sitting me down and explaining to me why some children couldn't read, and I said, "That doesn't seem right to me." I made up my mind then that I would work.

The reason I say this is because there are a lot of young people listening to this, and I just want you to know, just listen to your heart because God puts these things in your heart at very young ages. If you don't block it out, if you are not cynical and if you hope and live openly, those dreams can come true. Then you can make a profound difference in rebuilding a school system, which I am continuing to work on, or make sure every orphan in the world knows that they are loved and that we are going to work hard to find them a family; to build this great gulf coast, where I spent my life growing up as a child and knowing that it is worth saving. It may not be as sexy as the west coast or as prosperous as the east coast, but the gulf coast is really worth fighting for.

It is a very special place in our country. I learned to love it as a child, and I will fight for it as an adult.

Finally, let me just say a few thank yous in closing. A thank you to my mentor Lindy Boggs, who coached me every step of the way; to my mentor John Breaux, who got me into this gig in the first place.

I thank Bennett Johnston, who taught me about being a proud member of the Energy Committee; Senator Tom Daschle, who saved my skin more times than I can tell you; Kent Conrad, who taught me about the budget; Chris John and Jim McCrery and Richard Baker in my delegation, who were Democrats and Republicans—we worked together to do amazing things. I also thank Cedric Richmond, who still works closely with me, and Charles Boustany, whom I admire a lot. I thank other Members who are no longer here: Olympia Snowe—we were the first two women to chair a major committee—well, actually a minor committee, the Small Business Committee; and Lisa [Murkowski] and I were the first to chair and be a ranking member of a major committee. I couldn't have worked with two more remarkable women. I thank Senator Joe Lieberman, who was a leader of the DLC and a great mentor of mine on foreign policy issues; Senator Ted Stevens, who was as grumpy as could be but really did take me under his wing and teach me a lot; Senator Danny Inouye; Senator Robert Byrd. I am going to put others into the Record: Senators Mikulski, Carper, Heitkamp, Manchin, Cantwell, Begich, Pryor, and Hagan.

I want to say a special word to the Black Caucus. I represent 30 percent African Americans in my State. You know, all groups of people are hard to represent, and my State is so diverse, and I have tried so hard to be respectful of all the different groups in my State.

I thank the Black Caucus—both the local elected officials and the National Black Caucus—for being such a great partner with me and helping me to understand about compassion, forgiveness, faithfulness, and for trust. Their spiritual strength is so amazing. I thank them very much for coming down to help me.

I thank labor, who brought me here. They encouraged me to run when I was 23 years old, and I tried to never leave them. Only 8 percent of my State is now organized. I have never left them. I think you should leave with the people who brought you to the dance, and they most certainly did.

I thank Harry Reid, who has been an amazing friend to me and who, most important, has been a great friend to my

family. He has honored us in so many small ways, and I just love him for his tenacity and his leadership.

I thank you all. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. It has been a joy, but I know God is calling me to a different place. I am not the least bit sad and I am not the least bit afraid because it has been a remarkable opportunity to serve with all of you, and I thank you very much.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

TRIBUTES

TO

MARY L. LANDRIEU

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *December 9, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to salute my colleagues who are departing the Senate at the end of this year with the conclusion of the 113th Congress: Mark Begich of Alaska, Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Tom Harkin of Iowa, Mike Johanns of Nebraska, Tim Johnson of South Dakota, MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana, Carl Levin of Michigan, Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, Mark Udall of Colorado, and John Walsh of Montana.

They have all worked hard, ceaselessly giving their energy and considerable time and service to their constituents, to their home States and to our country. I want to thank them for their service and for their kindness to me over many years in so many cases. In particular, I want to say a few words about these colleagues. . . .

MARY LANDRIEU and I also came to the Senate together in 1997. We served together on the Appropriations Committee, where she has been an extraordinary advocate for Louisiana, particularly after Hurricane Katrina. In fact, her efforts have been so profoundly influential in her home State, she is one that we all look to as a model for what it is to be an advocate for your constituents. She has done it so well. . . .

Along with all of my other colleagues who are leaving us at the conclusion of the 113th Congress, let me thank them for their service, their dedication to improving the lives of Americans, and on a very personal level for their friendship. I wish them all well.

WEDNESDAY, *December 10, 2014*

Mr. DURBIN. I have some tributes here for my colleagues who are retiring, leaving the Senate. It is a lengthy list of tributes. . . .

I will close by mentioning the one whose fate was determined the last, and that was MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana. She has been a great Senator for Louisiana. She worked harder and achieved more for that State than, obviously, the people of that State realized. There wasn't an issue that came before us that MARY didn't stand up and say, "Now let me tell you how that affects Louisiana," and usually make a request which was fulfilled.

Let me add one other grace note when it comes to her personal and public life. MARY and her husband have adopted two children. They are the light of their lives. Her dedication to the cause of adopted children has really made a difference not just to the United States but in the world. I am sure she didn't get a lot of political reward for it, but thank goodness she put a big part of her life and her public life into standing up for the rights of adopted children and adoptive parents, encouraging more and more, so the kids would have a loving home as part of their lives. It was just one of the things that MARY worked on, but it was one of the things I will remember. I am going to miss her and her service to the U.S. Senate.

MARY bleeds Louisiana. Her father is the legendary statesman Moon Landrieu, former New Orleans mayor, HUD Secretary under President Jimmy Carter, and judge of Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court. Her brother, Mitch, is the current mayor of New Orleans.

MARY—the eldest of the nine siblings—learned important political lessons early. She was taunted in early grade school about her father's pro-civil rights stands in the 1960s. Those experiences taught her that taking the right position sometimes makes you unpopular—but you do it anyway.

MARY was only 23 when she entered the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1980. She went on to serve as a member of her State's senate.

MARY is a formidable fighter for Louisiana. In her State's darkest hours, during Hurricane Katrina and in the aftermath of that terrible catastrophe, she stood strong. She was exactly the right person for Louisiana. More than any other single official, she deserves the credit for directing billions of dollars in relief and rebuilding her hometown and home State.

Governor Bobby Jindal's Secretary of Administration had this to say about MARY LANDRIEU: "She's relentless; once she starts, she will not stop. And once she's on your side, she's on your side."

This is what St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain remembers about Katrina: "The very first federal representative we had on the ground after Katrina was MARY LANDRIEU . . . when water was still in our houses and neighborhoods. . . . She spoke to my deputies and offered assistance to them."

Perhaps the best description of MARY LANDRIEU was offered by her mentor, former Senator John Breaux, who calls her "a pit bull with Louisiana charm."

In 2009, when Hurricane Katrina was just a dim, bad memory for some, Senator LANDRIEU made sure the stimulus bill included a provision that ended up allowing the State to rebuild Charity Hospital, the cornerstone of health care for many low-income New Orleans families.

Senator LANDRIEU has been a champion of the energy industry—so crucial to the economy of her State and her Nation. She has fought to preserve Social Security and Medicare and other safety net programs that provide dignity and security for so many. She has fought to defend voting rights, women's rights, and children's rights. She has earned a spot in heaven with her work to promote adoption. She provided a crucial vote to pass the Affordable Care Act, knowing full well that it would cost her politically. If that doesn't earn her a spot in heaven, it will at least earn her a place in history as a profile in courage.

With her political genes and determination, I know that MARY LANDRIEU will continue to be a force in Louisiana and American politics for years to come. While I will miss seeing her every day in this Senate, I look forward to seeing her fight for what is right for many more years. It has been an honor to serve with her.

Mr. COONS. . . . As I close, I would also like to thank those of our colleagues who will be leaving the Senate after the New Year.

It is an incredible privilege to work in this Chamber and to represent the people. Every day I am awed by the dedication and talent of many of my colleagues, public servants who come to work to fight for their States and their government.

To those who are ending their service in the Senate, know that I value your friendship and partnership. It has been an honor to work with you, and I thank you for all you have done for our Nation.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014.

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

THURSDAY, *December 11, 2014*

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to thank Senator LANDRIEU for her tireless service in the U.S. Senate to our State and to the country. I have had the pleasure of knowing MARY for a long time. She was in her second year of service in the Senate when I first came to Washington to the U.S. House, but it is far longer than that, probably longer than anyone in this Chamber realizes. Both sets of my grandparents live all of 3 blocks from where MARY grew up, and I grew up all of 10 blocks from there. MARY and my brother Jeff were grammar school classmates starting at kindergarten.

Of course, here in the Senate I had the honor of working with MARY on so many important issues and challenges. From the moment we worked together on key Louisiana issues, we determined on those issues to put aside any partisan concerns when those crucial priorities were at stake.

As she alluded to, the most challenging and trying time in all of that experience was just a few months after I first came to the Senate when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck. Neither of us could have ever imagined facing the challenges our State and Mississippi and others faced and facing the challenges we faced in the Senate trying to respond in a robust and full and responsible way. I am sure it was the most trying work for both of us in our careers.

Louisiana faced unprecedented disaster and desperation, and that brought us together all the more to work for those crucial Louisiana needs and priorities. We traveled together, of course, to see the damage and meet with our neighbors and local leaders all around the State. Her staff and mine worked directly together around the clock, really, for months, sometimes in my office, sometimes in hers, always with the same goal of doing everything possible to help our neighbors

and Louisiana citizens get through that disaster and get through to a full recovery.

Those trials, of course, didn't end with Katrina and Rita. There were other similar challenges which brought us together and on which MARY was a distinguished leader. She was always a champion for domestic energy production, and Louisiana will enjoy a far fairer share of oil and gas revenue under the legislation commonly referred to as Domenici-Landrieu.

After the infamous BP oilspill in 2010, MARY pushed for the RESTORE Act legislation to dedicate revenue from the fines to oilspill recovery in the affected areas.

As Louisiana fights continually against the loss of coastal wetlands, major restoration work is moving forward because of MARY's years of hard work directly related to that.

Due to MARY's strong support of our Nation's military, our fighting men and women are better off. The bases in Louisiana, which are important to our communities and to the Nation's defense, continue to have what they need for their vital mission. Our veterans face challenges and most recently faced the crying need for new health care clinics in Louisiana, and MARY helped make those finally happen, finally move forward, including pushing the case fervently and directly to administration officials.

In a very personal and dramatic way, MARY is enthusiastic in promoting children's welfare and supporting adoption. Her dedication internationally was recognized when Russia banned her travel after her direct and well-founded criticism of Russia's action to curb adoption by Americans.

In all of this work, one thing is always crystal clear—certainly crystal clear to me—with Senator LANDRIEU: Louisiana has always been first in her heart and her top motivation, and she has had a distinguished career of service in the Senate on all of those issues I mentioned and many more. All of us in Louisiana give her our sincere thanks for that.

Thank you. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I will just say a couple words before I turn it over to the Chair and to my colleague from West Virginia.

When I think of MARY LANDRIEU, I think of the most tenacious person in the Senate standing here, holding court, fighting for her cause, fighting for her values, fighting for her State. I think particularly of the hard work she did on flood insurance, on this issue that was so critical to the State of Louisiana and very important to my State of Oregon and

to our other States but particularly Louisiana. She was determined. Every time I was on the floor, she would say: Jeff, have you done this and Jeff, have you done that. She would grab someone else, and she would say: And now we have to do this. That is how legislation gets done.

Senator LANDRIEU really drives things through the Senate. It is one thing to be here and express your ideas in kind of a social manner—well, wouldn't this be nice or wouldn't that be nice; it is another to stand here and say: I am going to make this happen because it is important to my constituents and important to our Nation. I have seen MARY LANDRIEU do that on issue after issue, and certainly for all who came in with my class 6 years ago, it has been a wonderful education on how to make maximum use and effectiveness from this privilege of serving in the Senate.

Thank you for everything you have done, MARY LANDRIEU. It is an honor to serve with you, and we are going to miss you greatly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. All of us came here at one time or another, and the first impression you have is how they kind of ingratiate you and bring you into the fold. I am often asked—I am sure most of our colleagues are asked the same question—whom do you consider your best and closest friend, with whom do you associate and with whom do you feel comfortable? In any category, without a doubt, it is always MARY LANDRIEU. We come from a similar background—rural States. We come from the same culture—hard-working people who basically don't ask for an awful lot and give a lot more back. Both of us come from large Catholic families, and we have an awful lot in common. We and our spouses have bonded, and we have done things together. That was the way I heard the place used to work, that you build relationships and there is camaraderie and you share dinners at people's homes. It is such a different atmosphere when that happens because you really do forge a bond that is so much missing in this body.

Let me say one other thing. The great losers in this whole election process we just had were the great people of Louisiana. They lost a champion. They lost a fighter. That is what Senator Merkley said. There is nobody who said: I think you ought to be careful about that because I think MARY is interested. We knew there could be problems.

With that being said, the best thing to do is to go talk to MARY on this subject or issue, and we would work through it. How do we compromise and bring everybody together? And MARY would say, "We will work through it."

Coming from an energy State and MARY having an energy State and the two of us being Democrats, on our side sometimes our individual caucus is not as large as we would like for it to be—let's put it that way—but we talk an awful lot about how we are moving an energy policy. As MARY said, we need it all in this country. We should be totally energy independent. We shouldn't be looking to other countries and buying their products and giving them the resources to be used against us, and we don't have to do that. We can do it in a sensible and balanced way with the economy and the environment. MARY has always had the economy and environment first and foremost. That type of balance is hard to find, and it is definitely hard to find in Washington.

So I just want her to know that there is nobody who is going to miss MARY LANDRIEU more than me, being in this body, going shoulder to shoulder with her and trying to bring an even keel to this whole process.

MARY, I feel for the people of Louisiana. I truly do. I am hoping somebody can come along and have the same spirit and fight that you have, but no one is going to be able to replace you and what you have been able to do and what you have been able to make us aware of.

My little State was involved in helping after Katrina, helping the State of Louisiana. The State of West Virginia came immediately. When that happened, we were so proud to be part of that, and we now have a lot of people from Louisiana living in West Virginia today because of that effort.

There has been a wonderful relationship and a wonderful friendship, but more important, there has been a wonderful person who has graced the Halls in this tremendous body for 18 years who will not be replaced in this Senate and this body. Again, the people of Louisiana should be extremely proud to have someone who is a fighter, who gave every drop she had of public service for her State and never forgot where she come from. So with that, that is a tremendous tribute in itself.

I say to my dear friend, thank you for your service on behalf of the great State of Louisiana. Thank you for all the important work you have done for our country. God bless you, and I love you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, you can see that MARY LANDRIEU has a lot of friends on both sides of the aisle, and that is because MARY has stood up and been a mentor to so many of us. She taught us how to fight for our own States because that is what she has done every day for Louisiana.

I was thinking about our States earlier. MARY mentioned in her talk about how Minnesota is at the top of the Mississippi and Louisiana is at the bottom and how hard we fought for river issues and barges and locks and dams. We will actually have success at the end of the year with the ABLE Act, which is really important for other reasons, but we are going to finally start the funding for lock and dam improvements, and that kind of work would not have happened without MARY and the work and support she has provided with the RIVER Act. So a river doesn't divide us, it unites us, and MARY is a uniter and brings people together on so many issues.

First of all, MARY established the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. At some of the events she literally brings the angels—people who have adopted children in the most dire circumstances—to Washington to celebrate these adoptions and talk about the policy changes that need to be made.

For anyone who has adopted one of the foster kids or brought them into an office and adopted them—the reason you can do that is because MARY LANDRIEU started that program so that foster children, who otherwise would not have the connections and wherewithal to be able to get a job for the summer, spring, or fall in Washington, DC, would be able to work, and then she has all of these kids to her house every single year.

MARY doesn't just fight for adopted kids at home, she fights for them all over the world. I would hate to be the bureaucrat in Guatemala when MARY LANDRIEU shows up to fight them off. I see her staff, and some of them were probably with her on that trip. I think she knew the name of every child who was waiting to be adopted in Guatemala.

How can we forget the meeting with the Russians when they started to use these poor little children as pawns in a political game? MARY stood up to them. As a result, as many of us know, she has now been banned from the country of Russia. I don't think everybody knows that the reason she was banned was because she was fighting for these kids who were waiting to be adopted. Many of the parents are in my State, and they actually have siblings and they are trying to

adopt the other sibling. That is a very sad story and MARY stood up for them. In the words of her dad, Putin didn't like it, and so MARY was banned. I guess that is not where she is going on vacation after we are done here.

The other thing about MARY I will never forget—how kind and sweet and fun she is for her friends in the Senate—is the time when we had a bet on the Saints-Vikings game in the playoffs. We bet some food from our States. If anybody remembers that amazing playoff game, the Vikings lost, and I had to wear a Drew Brees jersey and walk over to MARY's office with a pot of gumbo, which is really hard to make. When I got to her office, all of her New Orleans press was there, and when she tried that gumbo, she said, "This is Minnesota gumbo. This gumbo just needs something special." She got out an enormous bottle of hot sauce from her desk drawer—as only a Louisiana Senator would have—and dumped it in my Minnesota gumbo. That is the spice that MARY has added to all of our lives.

What we have learned from her we will never forget. As I said, she is a role model for so many of us on how to fight for our States.

We see it in the eyes of those little adopted children and the great success we are starting to see on the coast because of all the recovery you brought to your State. We know you will never be forgotten and we want you to keep fighting.

Thank you, MARY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I can't leave the floor without speaking to MARY. MARY has been such an incredible inspiration to me. I have been in the Senate now for 13 months, and I have had a number of conversations with her, but the best way to teach somebody is to show somebody.

Senator LANDRIEU is prodigiously persuasive, tirelessly tenacious, doggedly determined. Just to watch Senator LANDRIEU is to watch what every American should hope for in a Senator—someone who is unyielding in their work and service to them.

If you look at the myriad interests in the State of Louisiana, I was amazed by what I saw first hand. MARY stood up and fought for the people who were loud and ornery but still had a good cause as well as the people who were voiceless and humble. MARY stood up for them. MARY stood up for people in her community who were from every different

background and from every different race. MARY stood up for them in a way that is a model to my State.

I heard my senior Senator mention you by name about how essential you were when my State had its back against the wall and was crushed by a superstorm. When there were battles to get my State's funding, and MARY had no skin in that game, my senior Senator mentioned you as a champion for New Jersey and that is what blows me away about you.

I yearn for a government that has moral courage, more than we have now, people who will risk popularity for purpose and will risk substance for some kind of celebrity. Senator LANDRIEU has done things against her political interests, but for the people. That is why I have a great deal of reverence for you and why I travel down to your State.

Now the Senator knows this because I must have said it hundreds of times when I was down in Louisiana, that that is my ancestral State. I will end by saying this: My grandaddy was born in Monroe. He was born poor. As my family likes to say, he was so poor he couldn't afford to be poor, he was po, P–O. He was born Black at a time of immense segregation, when people who walked the hallways of power couldn't give a damn about him. He taught me love for your State, and more important, the urgency to stand up and fight for those people that most folks won't fight for.

I am telling you right now, my grandaddy died during my first big election, but if he knew you, he would be so proud of your service.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. I wish to echo all the comments people said today, but I have to be honest. When I was elected, I was scared of MARY. People said very politely that you should check with MARY to see if she has an issue with something. I was terrified of what people told me she would do if I was not on her side.

If you remember, when I came in, we doubled the Oil and Gas Caucus in the Democratic caucus by me just joining, and so we had an immediate connection, which was unique in itself. Our connection was not just that, but also, as MARY mentioned, her mentor, Lindy Boggs, and our family knows the Boggses very well.

I can still remember a call I got when I won my mayor's race in 2003 from this woman in Louisiana. My staff came

in and said some woman from Louisiana is calling, and we don't know who she is, but she wants to talk to you, and so I said, "OK." I took the phone call, and it was Lindy Boggs. You know how she would start a conversation with "Hi, darlin', I just want to check in with you and see how you are doing, and congratulations." Then she said, "One moment, someone is at my door." She came back and said, "The exterminator is here," and that is classic Lindy Boggs.

What was so real about her—and I can see it in MARY's style—and that is she is real. The work MARY has done—and I didn't know it until I came to the Senate—for foster kids and adoption is remarkable. Amy Klobuchar went into great detail about that, and it shows that it is not always about the policy and fights on the floor here, but there is so much that individuals do outside this Chamber. What MARY has done outside of the Chamber is to use this position to make a difference for young people, and that is powerful. As MARY has said, we fight over policies and issues, but every one of those young people has been touched in some way. I guarantee—and I am sure you have seen it over the years where someone might come up to you and say, I don't know if you remember me, and then they tell you the story of how you met them when they were a foster kid and just getting adopted or when you were at one of the ceremonies or one of the events they were at. Those are the things I will remember about you.

The tenacity that people talked about—there is no question about it. I was glad when I got on the Appropriations Committee because I thought, finally, I will be on there with someone who will chew it up with me, and I just had to hang on to your coattails when you were fighting on issues.

When we sat in on those leadership meetings on Tuesday mornings, I was always thankful when you came in. You were right across from me. I don't know if they all figured it out—maybe, again, as I said, it is a little bit of a confession—we had our signals, or maybe eye contact, and then we went to work. You were really incredible.

When you were in caucus—and many people don't see those, except as Members—you were always passionate about what was important to Louisiana. You never forgot what was important to Louisiana.

People made the comment that you are tenacious. I would say that any time something did move in the Congress, you were a part of it in some way. When we were trying to figure out how to fix the health care bill, you were right there. You

didn't hesitate. You knew it was a hot potato, but it was also something that we knew we had to make better, not just for people but for decades to come. You were not afraid of that even though you said you knew it could cost you your election because you knew generationally it would have an impact.

It wasn't about the moment, it was about 10, 15, 20 years, you could look back and say you helped make that happen, and you did, every time you tried to move in and push an item or idea. Even though we will not be serving here, you will have an impact.

I could tell, as we were shaking hands here, it was amazing to watch you, you never stop. You were already talking to each person about the work they need to be doing. When I shook your hand, you were talking about fisheries. I am like, MARY, just relax. But you are already working it, and that is what is so unique about you. You will not be in this body, but you will be in this body because of the way you do your work. It is not about being in this office, it is about caring about Louisiana, and as I said, I saw it just in this last moment here. It is unbelievable. You will never give up on the people of Louisiana because you care so deeply.

It has been an honor to know you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. I wish to make some remarks about the Senator from Louisiana. I had the pleasure of serving as ranking member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Committee, and MARY LANDRIEU was the chairman. I wasn't sure about what to expect when I joined that committee. I knew of MARY's passion and her persuasion, which is given in a gentle but effective way. She reaches out. I thought, she is going to convince me out of just about everything. I will not be able to hold my own with her, but she was so gracious in terms of working together with me as we worked through some very tough issues.

She was a knowledgeable and effective leader. She couldn't ask enough questions, couldn't gain enough information, making wise decisions, given the limitations that we had relative to appropriations and given the process that, unfortunately, was not the way the Appropriations Committee should go forward. Nevertheless, working together on that and on a whole number of issues turned out to be a very pleasant experience because of the nature of the leader of the committee and her willingness to work together.

You get to learn something about someone when you spend 3 days trekking along the southern border on the immigration issue. We climbed into tunnels, driving along fences, talking to Border Patrol agents, looking at the enormous channels that exist relative to that border and our Border Patrol people and immigration control people. Both of us were right there in blue jeans and tennis shoes in hot weather, and learning first hand the challenges this country faces relative to dealing with immigration.

Her passion for children and her State has been talked about. I think the word that best describes MARY is passion. She has passion for anything that she engages in and doing it in a way that is relentless and achieves results. I think it is a great tribute to her character and to the kind of person she is.

One thing we will not be able to do is meet together somewhere in Russia. I have been banned from Russia and MARY has been banned from Russia. I was banned because I took significant exception to the Russian takeover of Crimea and its activities in Ukraine. I was surprised by that. MARY was banned for an unnecessary reason, and that was trying to help Russian children who were trying to find adoptive parents. Obviously she was successful, and obviously she was as relentless there as she was on all the other issues because Russia saw that as a threat. Here is someone reaching out for all the right reasons and doing something for all the right reasons—passion for children and finding them a home.

I wish MARY the very best going forward in her next chapter of life. I can testify to you from personal experience that there is life after Congress, and it can be a pleasant life. Knowing you, you will be engaged in something very significant—whether for your State or your country. Your life of service, and your family's life of service, is well recognized. So I wish the Senator from Louisiana the very best as she goes forward. It has been a pleasure working with her.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to follow the comments of my friend, the Senator from Indiana, although I do think the Record should be corrected. I would say to my colleague I have also dealt with the Senator from Louisiana a number of times on a number of issues, and I have thought of lots of words to describe her style, but "gentle" would not be one to come to mind.

I know this is a day to pay tribute, so I wish to echo some of the comments of the Senator from Indiana.

I first met part of the Landrieu family when I had a chance to meet MARY's dad when he was serving as the Secretary of HUD and I was a young staff person. MARY talks a lot about her family. Her family was kind enough to host me a variety of times when I was in Louisiana. She has a great family, a great tradition.

So many folks have spoken about specific issues regarding MARY's service in the Senate. I am not going to talk about her focus on issues and the relentlessness she brings, but I wish to acknowledge her generosity and heart and spirit. She and Frank would always open their home for whatever cause. Again, I heard the comments about her enormous heart and commitment for adoption. I think about so many events that we go to, but those Angels of Adoption events at her house touched all of us in a way that is not often the case. I also can acknowledge now that she has a great love for the Commonwealth of Virginia and has spent some time there due to her love of horses and her daughter's riding and her own riding. As has been mentioned by so many—and I know from our own conversations—this is not somebody who wants to look backward but is clearly already looking forward. I know life holds for you and Frank a number of extraordinarily exciting additional chapters. I hope I have the opportunity to be a part of those chapters and to be subject to that gentle persuasion on whatever issue comes to mind as you go forward.

I know I speak for so many of our colleagues when I say we all have a lot of unique characteristics, but with MARY LANDRIEU they broke the mold.

I yield the floor to my good friend the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, one of the truly nice things about serving in the Senate is the people we meet. Myrna and I consider Frank and MARY to be our friends. She is an incredible person and has given incredible service. I am sorry the people of Louisiana could not see MARY in our caucuses as she fought on different issues for the people of Louisiana and what she did as an advocate on behalf of people who otherwise would not have had their voices heard. She did it in a very effective way.

I heard some of the conversations about what happened with Katrina and the people of New Orleans. MARY LANDRIEU brought us down to Louisiana for us to see first hand. It was incredible for me, not to just see the physical devastation, but thanks to MARY LANDRIEU, we saw the people. We saw the spirit in the people, but we saw people who needed help. It is that type of emotional involvement that MARY gives to every cause she believes in.

So I want the Senator from Louisiana to know how much I deeply respect your model of public service and the people you stood up for.

Senator LANDRIEU spoke about the adoption issue. She got into it because she has such a big family. I think I got into it because of her. She is pretty persuasive. We all feel better because of that. Senator LANDRIEU is the one who really led us in those efforts. What an incredible legacy.

I want to speak a minute about small business issues. Senator LANDRIEU chaired that committee during a particularly important time. I want to relate a couple of stories to my colleagues. There are many times I was in the Democratic caucus and we would be talking about an issue and Senator LANDRIEU would stand and say, "Well, how about small businesses?" Under her leadership we brought some major initiatives to the floor to help small businesses because of MARY LANDRIEU and her ability to put together a commonsense package. She understood small businesses are the growth engine of America. That is how jobs are created and that is where innovation takes place. I can tell my colleagues—I worked with her. I know what we got done. I know how we took on our own governmental agencies to make sure they did right for small businesses and how we fought the bundling. Contract officers love to take small contracts and make them into big ones because it is less headache for them but less opportunity for small businesses. MARY LANDRIEU stopped that practice and put a spotlight on it. It was an incredible experience for me because it showed me that each of us can make a difference.

I knew what I was trying to do. One of the issues I got involved with was to raise the surety bond issues and I didn't see much chance of getting it done, but MARY gave me the opportunity to get it done. She coached me on how to get it done, and that is now a permanent law of the land.

She made us all relevant on the committee, individually and collectively. We have a great legacy to help small busi-

nesses in this country, thanks to the leadership of Senator LANDRIEU.

To the people of Louisiana, you could not have had a stronger advocate, a stronger friend, a person who accomplished more for that State during some extremely challenging times. To the people of this country and the work MARY LANDRIEU did on the Appropriations Committee for our national security and standing up for and protecting and defending our own country, the record of Senator LANDRIEU is incredible. To those who are voiceless but had MARY LANDRIEU to speak for them, from the disadvantaged to small businesses—and the list goes on and on—this is one incredible legislator. She is a model to many of us. I thank her so much for her service and her commitment to public life. It will always be an inspiration to me, the fact that I was given the honor to serve with you in the Senate of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Walsh). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise to add my words of admiration for this great person, for this great legislator. Just to tell a brief story, it was back in 2006, in a lameduck session just like this. The Democrats had won and were about to take over the Senate. The Democrats had just won and were about to take over the House—a different passage in time. But throughout all of 2006, even in the minority, MARY LANDRIEU was moving a bill to open up a vast new area in the Gulf of Mexico for drilling for oil and natural gas.

I was over in the House. I was from Massachusetts. I did not want this bill to pass. I wanted to actually save it for 2007 when the Democrats were in control. We could pass it in an energy bill by the end of 2007, which would have included this provision. MARY passed it through the Senate—bipartisan, as usual. If we look up bipartisan, if we Google it, MARY's picture actually comes up.

Over in the House, because of all of her momentum, I lost and that bill passed. Again, tens of thousands of new jobs fell to Louisiana through MARY LANDRIEU.

It was about a week later when I was out shopping and here comes MARY right toward me with her daughter in her riding outfit.

MARY said, "I want to introduce you to Congressman Markey."

I said to her daughter, "Well, you have to add a few additional words because your mother just defeated me quite badly just last week and passed a big bill for Louisiana, for whom your mother always calls her people, the people of Louisiana."

There isn't anybody who understands better the spirit of legislating, about protecting your home State and respecting those who are maybe not in agreement with you but are not your enemy but somebody with whom you try to work.

After the BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico I was the lead Democrat in the House on the Natural Resources Committee with jurisdiction over that, and MARY again was outraged that such damage could be done to her fishermen, to her tourism industry, to her people in Louisiana. She worked hard to make sure billions of dollars would ultimately go back into the gulf to ensure that her fishermen, her tourism industry, and her people were protected.

Then, after having served in the House for 37 years, I arrived in the Senate with a great concern for a bill I had been working on in Massachusetts, which was the dramatic rise in the insurance rates for homeowners and businesses right along the coastline of Massachusetts. I had to introduce legislation not only to work on the issue, but when I arrived in the Senate, MARY LANDRIEU was already here, already working on that bill, all ready to protect her homeowners, her small business people from outrageous increases in insurance rates that would have basically made their homes unaffordable.

Throughout my career, all I can tell my colleagues is one constant is this great, legendary legislator, somebody who embodies all the best of what this institution stands for. I just want to let her know how proud I have been to be able to serve with her here and how proud I am to be able to tell a story of the time when she just beat me flat out because that is just how she plays. She plays it for her State every time, and no waiting if it is Louisiana. I know all the people of Louisiana know that about her.

So congratulations on your great career.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, as I start my comments on the land title legislation before us, I would be remiss if I did not mention the incredible work our chair MARY LANDRIEU has done on this legislation. As we just heard from the tribute to her service over the last few minutes, as the Presiding Officer said in his comments, if you Google "bipar-

tisan," there will be a picture of MARY LANDRIEU. I think this title sort of embodies that. We owe great gratitude to Chairman LANDRIEU and to Ranking Member Murkowski for the incredible negotiation and work they have put into this package. . . .

FRIDAY, *December 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I will now speak very briefly about my retiring colleagues and then turn it over to the Senator from Florida. I promise I will be brief.

Everybody will face retirement, voluntarily or involuntarily. There will be a last vote to cast and a last speech to make. Only God knows when that day comes because we are all just one car wreck away from ending our careers.

To the retiring Members, I have had the pleasure of serving with you, and I know you all. You did what you thought was best for our country and your State, and what more could anyone ask? My good friend Mark Pryor, who tried to find common ground at a time when it is hard to find. MARY LANDRIEU, who would drill under the Capitol if she thought it would help American energy independence. We have good friends on the other side, and I will miss you, and I wish you well. But I would like very briefly to speak about four. . . .

To all of you, Godspeed. I wish you nothing but the best.

I am fortunate enough to go into my third term. To my colleagues, as we go into the next Congress, let's try to do better. I know we can. If we do, all boats will rise.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, I honor my friend and colleague from Louisiana, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, who is departing the Senate at the end of this year. Her career in public service began 34 years ago when she was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. During that time and in her service in the U.S. Senate, she has proved time and again that the people of Louisiana could not have asked for a better advocate and fighter on their behalf.

It is tough to describe someone like Senator LANDRIEU. Senator LANDRIEU is selfless, dedicated, tenacious, and resilient, but these are just words that, while accurate, fail to truly capture who this woman is and what she stands for. It is only by looking at Senator LANDRIEU's significant accomplishments that someone can truly begin to understand the depths of her selflessness, dedication, and resiliency. During

my time in the Senate, I have seen MARY embody these words like few others in this body.

Senator LANDRIEU and I both come from large families. I know the impact being one of seven children had on me growing up and I am sure Senator LANDRIEU can attest to how big of an impact being one of nine children had on her. During her time in public service, Senator LANDRIEU has worked hard to ensure that all children can benefit from having a family to call their own. Senator LANDRIEU has worked extensively with the Angels in Adoption Program since its inception, and cochaired the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and the Congressional Foster Care Caucus. Senator LANDRIEU's work has changed the lives of children across Louisiana, the country, and around the world. Because of her work, there are countless children who are now able to feel the love and benefits of having a family.

In 2005, Louisiana was victim of one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit this country. Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and Louisiana the likes of which this country has rarely seen. With one of the country's great cities devastated and in ruins, it was MARY LANDRIEU who took the lead on recovery efforts. It was MARY LANDRIEU who held FEMA's feet to the fire to better serve Louisianans. It was MARY LANDRIEU who helped direct billions of dollars in recovery funds to the State. It was because of MARY LANDRIEU that the great State of Louisiana has bounced back strong as ever.

Senator LANDRIEU's leadership did not end with the recovery and rebuilding efforts. Following the passage of the Biggert-Waters Flood Reform Act in 2012, Senator LANDRIEU was one of the first to recognize and sound the alarm on the impending problems homeowners would face with unreasonably high flood insurance rates. Because of her early recognition of these problems and her proactive approach to finding solutions, Congress was able pass a bill preventing thousands of people across the country from being forced to pay disastrously high flood insurance premiums.

I have also had the privilege of working with Senator LANDRIEU on energy issues. There is no better advocate in the Senate on energy than Senator LANDRIEU. I came here with the intent of learning everything that I could from Senator LANDRIEU. My only regret is that there was no way to fully take in all of her knowledge in the brief time that I have been here. That is a testament to the incredible work that she has done over her career to advance a pragmatic en-

ergy policy for this country, work that I hope to continue in the years ahead building upon the energy legacy that Senator LANDRIEU will leave behind.

A word you hear often when people describe Senator LANDRIEU is tenacious, and this was never more apparent than on her work to advance the Keystone XL Pipeline. Anyone who watched Senator LANDRIEU work that bill and work behind the scenes to get the votes knows that she will fight to the very last second for what she believes in and that the word "can't" doesn't exist in her vocabulary. Senator LANDRIEU singlehandedly forced this bill to the Senate floor and brought us closer than we have been in 6 years to approving this project once and for all. Senator LANDRIEU's pragmatic approach to this issue and willingness to embrace solutions over politics stands as an example for the rest of the Senate to strive for.

Senator LANDRIEU always looked out for the energy interests of her State, while recognizing the need to provide and protect her gulf coast communities. She has pushed for increased LNG exports that would bring new jobs and significant investment to her State. She also has been instrumental in expanding oil exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico, but while doing so she has made sure that her coastal communities receive a bigger share of the royalties and revenue to mitigate any impacts from the development. Working for jobs and economic development and protecting those most impacted by this development, that is a pretty good legacy to leave behind in Louisiana.

The Landrieu family name comes with a long history of public service in Louisiana. The Landrieus, known for their big personalities that are eclipsed only by their accomplishments in office, can rest easy knowing that MARY has more than lived up to the family name. The Senate, Louisiana, and the country, are better off because of the work MARY LANDRIEU has done in the Senate. I know I am not alone in saying that we will miss having her here. I also know I am not alone in saying that I am sure her work is not done. I wish her luck in this next chapter of her life and look forward to seeing the tremendous work she will accomplish outside of this Chamber.

Mr. REID. Madam President, a noted author and analyst of human behavior, Stephen Covey, said, "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities."

For the last 18 years, Senate Democrats were stronger because of Senator MARY LANDRIEU. Her ability to shun political labels—instead of just going the route with Democrats and Republicans and Independents, she went her route. She made the United States a better place. She made the Senate a better place.

She had good training for being a consensus builder and somebody who liked compromise. I had the good fortune to serve in the Senate with other Louisiana Senators. I served with Bennett Johnston for many years on the Appropriations Committee. He was chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations. He was a good legislator. Not only did he help Louisiana a lot, he helped the country. Then there was John Breaux. He and I came to the Senate together. He was the dealmaker. He could put a deal together when no one thought one could be put together. So MARY LANDRIEU has had good Louisiana genes with those two men, and that is one of the reasons she has been as effective as she has been.

As I indicated, MARY came to the Senate with no partisan agenda. She was not interested in representing just liberals or just conservatives. She worked to represent all of Louisiana, which meant that sometimes she and I were not on the same side of an issue, and other times we were on the same side of an issue, but one thing was always certain: She was always on Louisiana's side.

The Landrieu family's political legacy runs long and deep in the State of Louisiana. She is the oldest of nine children. She is the daughter of Moon Landrieu, and her brother Mitch Landrieu is the mayor of New Orleans. Moon was a former mayor of New Orleans from 1970 to 1978, and was Jimmy Carter's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

A number of years ago, I toured New Orleans because she asked me to, as a member of the Appropriations Committee. I said, "OK, I will go, but I have to see those pumps—p-u-m-p-s." I watched this show on National Public Broadcasting, and they talked about these old pumps that had been there since 1900 that still worked every day pumping the water.

New Orleans is below sea level and those pumps have to work 24 hours a day. I went to see those old pumps. They were so clean. That place was spotlessly clean using those very old pumps.

I toured Lake Pontchartrain. I learned so much about it. Most all of the highways in New Orleans were built using the seashells from that lake. Thousands and thousands of tons of shells have come out of that lake. They recently stopped doing that, after so many years, because they thought it would be damaging to the environment. But over the last 50, 60, 100 years, thousands and thousands of tons of shells came out of that lake. We all heard about Lake Pontchartrain during that huge storm that hit.

Also, as part of the tour of New Orleans, you had to go to her home, that little home where nine children were raised. It is really a beautiful little home—but nine children, wow. Her mom and dad were there. That was the first time I had been able to meet the famous Moon Landrieu.

When we came there, unannounced, he was making peanut brittle, and I got some peanut brittle. On occasion, that good man has sent me some of his homemade peanut brittle. So I think the world of MARY and her family.

She was very quick to follow in her father's footsteps. At the age of 23, she was elected to the State legislature, making her the youngest woman to have ever been elected to that body.

After 8 years in the legislature, she became the State treasurer for 8 years. In 1996, she was elected to the Senate, becoming the first woman in Louisiana ever elected to a full Senate term.

Since coming to the Senate, MARY has chaired the Senate Committee on Small Business, and she was really good there. She is now the chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the same full committee her predecessor Bennett Johnson chaired.

On the Committee on Small Business, she reduced heavy Federal regulations and created tax relief for small businesses. As chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, MARY LANDRIEU fought for Louisiana's industry and jobs. Even before she became chair of that committee, she did something that was impossible. People had been trying to do something like this in Louisiana for 50, 60, 70, 80 years, but she did it—she was able to get New Orleans and the whole State of Louisiana and the gulf coast

some financial benefit from the offshore drilling. She did that. That is a legacy she will always have.

She always had Louisiana's interests at heart, and the people of Louisiana have been all the better because of it. For example, in the aftermath of Katrina, she stood up to the Bush administration and demanded more disaster relief for the people in Louisiana. The New York Times called her "the national spokeswoman for victims of the hurricane."

As her time in the Senate comes to an end, all Louisianans will miss having MARY in their corner. I wish MARY LANDRIEU and her husband Frank and their children Connor—who was recently married—and Mary Shannon the very best.

I remember when MARY brought that little baby Mary Shannon to the Senate. She was a tiny little baby. Now this beautiful child has grown to be an expert horsewoman. She is one of those people who rides horses all the time. She has entered her horses in different contests and has done very well.

I have known Connor since he was a little boy. He is married, and they have a little baby named Maddox, and MARY is so proud of her grandchild. Her husband Frank is a wonderful human being. I think so very much of him. I hope we will continue seeing them. Very often MARY will bring her family to my office. She takes them out on the balcony that overlooks the Mall.

MARY has touched my heart for a number of things, but the one thing she has done, which has been unsurpassed, is her caring for children who have no parents—adoptions. She led the Senate in adoptions. Her two children were adopted. Connor and Mary Shannon were adopted. She is so involved in that program, and I know she will continue to be involved.

Here on the Senate floor we will all miss MARY, her voice of reason and moderation. I consider her to be a good friend, and I appreciate all she has done for me, the people of Louisiana, and our country.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I know that so many of my colleagues are looking forward to wrapping up this year's business and hopefully getting home soon for the holidays.

I wish to take a few minutes to speak about a couple of issues. First I wish to give some remarks about my colleague, the Senator from Louisiana, on her retirement, and to mention a few things that have been going on in the Small Business Committee which will be wrapping up business. The Small Business Committee and Senator LANDRIEU

are kind of synonymous in my mind because my colleague Senator LANDRIEU has been, for the better part of the last couple of years, the chair of that committee and has done some incredible work. As legislation is moving through the final days in the U.S. Senate, we have been very successful in getting some important legislation passed for small business.

One piece of legislation we were able to make a part of the defense authorization bill is sole-source contracting for women entrepreneurs so they can more easily get contracting with the Federal Government. That is going to help us have their great products and services more easily contracted and get access to those contracts.

There is also money for microlending programs. My colleague from Michigan, Senator Levin, has pioneered an idea that is so important to women entrepreneurs and that involves the kind of lending they would like to see from the Small Business Administration, which is microlending, and for women to be able to get access to microloans. They also want an intermediate loan level of $200,000 or less. That helps them target some of the business interests they have, because we definitely need more women entrepreneurs in our country.

The third item is the STEP Program, which is a small business export assistance program that works with States. The Federal Government and the Small Business Administration work with States to help them target businesses within their States that can use export assistance to become exporters. This is such an important issue for our country, because we, with a growing middle class around the globe, have a great opportunity to sell new products and services around the globe. But many of our small businesses are challenged by the risk of making those kinds of attempts to sell in those markets. So this export assistance program, which had been a pilot, is now going to be a funded permanent program. So we are excited about that and excited it is moving through.

I also didn't get a chance last week to speak about my colleague Senator LANDRIEU on the floor, so I wanted to take a few minutes now to remind my colleagues that as someone who has served with her on the Energy Committee and served with her on the Small Business Committee, I have been so impressed with the accomplishments she has achieved in her career here in the U.S. Senate. For much of the time she was talking the other day—rightfully so—she

shared a lot of moments of her career and a lot of personal moments. I wanted to remind my colleagues of some of the very big challenges she faced as a Senator and how impressed I am with what she was able to actually overcome.

Many people know that obviously being hit by Katrina was one of the biggest economic challenges not just in Louisiana but to our country, and her impassioned leadership and calls to hasten the efforts to make sure we were doing everything we could for those individuals to receive medical aid and shelter and help find loved ones was nonstop for many days. She successfully, as she mentioned on the floor, urged OMB to fully fund the repairs of the levee system in southeast Louisiana and continues that work. She succeeded in passing legislation that directed the Army Corps of Engineers to analyze, design, and strengthen the storm mitigation systems against category 5 hurricanes.

Now if any of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate have ever worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, say no more. You know how challenging it is. We don't control them. They base all of their work on science. They have a budget. It is never enough money. It can seem as though we are fighting them forever to get something we think is essential to protect the people in our State to move forward. So she did all of that and moved the focus to make sure we establish a defense against category 5 hurricanes.

Also, if any of my colleagues ever had a flood or a storm in their State post-Katrina, they know the first person they were going to hear from was MARY LANDRIEU. She didn't stop her efforts in Louisiana. She wanted to take everything she learned from that emergency and call you up and tell you these are the things you need to do immediately and this is how you should get prepared. I know she did that for many of my colleagues and we so appreciated it.

Then another catastrophe happened—the Deepwater Horizon oilspill. As a member of the Commerce Committee, I can tell my colleagues I spoke to her many times about issues as they related to the Clean Water Act and what was eventually passed, the RESTORE Act, which was a bipartisan effort. Basically, the bill made sure that 80 percent of the Clean Water Act fines from BPA went directly into the Gulf States, making this the biggest individual investment in environmental conservation and restoration in our country's history. That was no easy task. There were a lot of people at the time who wanted to focus on many different aspects of that disaster, and so many events have taken place since

then. But I can remember clearly the catastrophe and what it meant for the fishing community, the individuals, the States' economies—all of the questions. A lot of people were looking backward about what happened, but the Senator from Louisiana was looking forward to make sure those funds were invested right there in the gulf. That was a big challenge that she was successful in meeting.

Obviously, she used her voice for many issues related to Louisiana, but I wish to emphasize to my colleagues how much she also used her voice for many other people who didn't seem to be here in the Halls of Washington and made sure that those issues were at the top of the agenda.

We had the 2009 economic crisis in our country and many people remember because it had such a huge economic impact on individual families. The Senator from Louisiana made sure she was standing up for small businesses during that time period. There were millions of Americans who lost their jobs during that time period, and as everybody was here talking about what to do to help these big banks—and we all know that they got a bailout—many small businesses across the country actually had performing lines of credit cut out right from under them. So they didn't have anybody knocking on the door to make sure they were being helped. But the Senator from Louisiana got very vocal here about the prioritization of making sure that we did something about conventional lending and tried to tackle this issue.

From 2007 to 2009, the number of SBA borrowers dropped by more than half and the amount of loans dropped by more than one-third. Many of these small businesses were paying the price. So Senator LANDRIEU got busy fighting for what was the Small Business Jobs Act. If my colleagues remember that debate, there were many times that some people on the other side of the aisle didn't want to support that legislation or even moments when Treasury didn't know if they wanted to support that legislation. She was successful in the end in getting that legislation passed 61 to 38. The Small Business Jobs Act leveraged more than $42 billion in loans to more than 90,000 businesses throughout the SBA. The bill, along with other measures, helped target about $12 billion in tax cuts for small business. So while the big banks had immediate relief, they had someone here in DC fighting for small businesses, and that was Senator LANDRIEU.

That legislation also saw a small business lending fund increase so that there was more capital on Main Street for small business. As a result of the legislation, 2011 and 2012

were the two biggest years on record for the 7(a) and the 504 Program, which are kind of the premier programs for the Small Business Administration. That went a long way to helping small businesses begin to recover. Also, the small business credit initiative helped small businesses get access to capital.

So all of these things were what my colleague from Louisiana fought for to help small businesses. I think it is a perfect example, along with those other things about how she used her voice to try to bring clarity to the challenges we were facing and stand up for those who weren't being heard.

She also, though, lent her voice to another group that is often—we don't necessarily always understand all of the issues surrounding it. I kind of think that she took over for Senator Byrd who was a great advocate on behalf of animals and spoke a lot about his dog, and many of the stories he shared warmed everybody's heart. Senator LANDRIEU last year was the Humane Society's Legislator of the Year for her consistent work to prevent the cruel practices of horse slaughter, to protect wild animals, and strengthen provisions against animal fighting. So she clearly deserved that title and we certainly appreciate her efforts there. She was also a voice for the District of Columbia. People get committee assignments, and, yes, she had that committee assignment, but the thing about Senator LANDRIEU is that once she took an assignment, she was tough on making sure those issues were addressed. She did that for the District of Columbia.

I want to add my sincere thanks to the Senator from Louisiana for all of her work and public service here in the Senate. She will be missed. I know she and I share a passion for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is an issue that is near and dear to my heart and something she has tried in her time in the Senate to get fully funded. We are going to continue that work on her behalf in the Energy Committee.

Again, I thank my colleague and dear friend for her incredible passion and for fighting for those whose voices were not always heard. There is no mistake her voice was heard here in the Senate.

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

that wreaked havoc across Louisiana and throughout the city of New Orleans.

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

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

She has been an active member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I have appreciated her willingness to work with me on so many issues in her capacity as the chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee. When Vermont was devastated by Hurricane Irene, Senator LANDRIEU was a key ally in helping me secure needed resources to help rebuild roads, bridges, businesses, and communities in Vermont. I thank her for that, Vermonters thank her, and I will never forget her invaluable work and support.

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

TUESDAY, *December 16, 2014*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as we wind down the final days of the 113th Congress, it is a good time both to reflect on the past and to look toward the future. I have been very moved as I listened to the farewell speeches of our departing Senators, and I wish I had time to pay tribute to each one of them. They have all been wonderful colleagues, and I en-

joyed working with and getting to know every one of them. I wish them all the very best in all their future endeavors. They will most certainly be missed. . . .

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, before this Congress ends, I wanted to pay tribute to several of my colleagues who will not be here when we convene next year. Some chose not to run again, and others unfortunately lost their reelection campaigns, but we will miss them all next year. I begin in order of seniority. . . .

Mr. President, Senator MARY LANDRIEU started a career of public service in the Louisiana State Legislature and then as State treasurer. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996, becoming her State's first female Senator. Senator LANDRIEU has always fought for her State, a fact never more apparent than in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita when she fought valiantly for disaster funding and reforms that helped countless people in Louisiana. MARY has also been a champion for our children, and I have seen her commitment as we worked together on adoption and foster care issues over the years. We will miss MARY's spirit, but we know she will never stop fighting for what she believes in. I wish MARY and Frank well in this new chapter of their lives. . . .

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, my friend from Louisiana Senator MARY LANDRIEU has devoted her entire life to public service, and today I wish to recognize the extraordinary leadership and energy that she has brought to the Senate throughout her career.

Senator LANDRIEU has been a leader on so many issues, none more so than as a passionate advocate for children around the world. I was proud to work with her on legislation to address the decline in international adoptions, in addition to several other bills that Senator LANDRIEU has authored to support children both in the United States and in developing nations. This issue is particularly near to Senator LANDRIEU's heart, and I know I am speaking for countless children around the world when I thank her for her efforts to ensure all children experience the benefits of a safe and loving family.

I also had the pleasure of working with Senator LANDRIEU during her leadership of the Senate Small Business Committee, as well as on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Senator LANDRIEU has always fought hard for her home State of Louisiana, and her dedication to her constituents

was made clear in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. All Americans vividly recall the scenes of destruction caused by the storm—more than 1,800 killed and $100 billion in property destroyed in just days. Those who were fortunate to escape the storm physically unscathed were more than likely left homeless, and over 80 percent of Senator LANDRIEU's hometown of New Orleans was under water for weeks after Katrina made landfall.

After the storm Senator LANDRIEU immediately set to work building support for legislation to jump start the gulf coast recovery and help her constituents put their lives back together. Senator LANDRIEU nearly singlehandedly pushed through critical funding and reforms to help Louisiana rebuild.

It has been an honor working with her, and I thank her for her years of service to the Senate and the Nation.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate and thank the 13 outgoing Senators who have worked tirelessly to represent their home States in the Senate: Senator Mark Begich, Senator Saxby Chambliss, Senator Tom Coburn, Senator Kay Hagan, Senator Tom Harkin, Senator Mike Johanns, Senator Tim Johnson, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Mark Pryor, Senator Jay Rockefeller, Senator Mark Udall, and Senator John Walsh.

I have worked side by side with these men and women for years—some for decades—and witnessed first hand their extraordinary commitment to public service and to the people they so proudly represent.

Even when we didn't see eye to eye on every issue, I always deeply respected and admired their service to our Nation and their dedication to fight for what they believe in.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside each and every one of these extraordinary colleagues. I will miss their leadership and their friendship, and I wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter.

FRIDAY, *January 2, 2015*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, at the end of this session of Congress, the Senate will be bidding farewell to my colleague and dear friend, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, who has served the people of Louisiana with such devotion over the last 18 years.

I don't think it is possible to overstate the magnitude of the challenges that she has faced on behalf of her constituents. Hurricane Katrina may have been the most horrible natural disaster our country has ever experienced—and Senator LANDRIEU's native city of New Orleans was ground zero.

No one was more engaged in the recovery effort that followed that calamity. Senator LANDRIEU fought tenaciously to secure the funds it would take to repair and revitalize the gulf coast with infrastructure improvements that would protect the coast against another major event.

In the 10 years since Katrina, Senator LANDRIEU has been a champion for homeowners who were struggling to afford flood insurance, most recently by winning passage of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, this past March.

Of course, just as the gulf coast appeared close to making a full recovery, it was struck by another disaster—the Deepwater Horizon oilspill. Again, Senator LANDRIEU was on the vanguard of that recovery, winning passage of the RESTORE Act so that the vast majority of the fines collected by the U.S. Government would go back to the gulf coast to help pay for the cleanup. It is the single biggest investment in environmental restoration in American history.

These were the moments when the people of Louisiana needed MARY LANDRIEU most—and she delivered as only she can.

At the same time, Senator LANDRIEU has always understood that the oil and gas industry is vital to her State's economy, and so it was a major milestone when she became the first woman to chair the Senate Energy Committee.

She fights so hard for Louisiana, but over the years of working with her, I have learned how much she is driven by a deep feeling of compassion, not just for those displaced by hurricanes or those whose livelihood was jeopardized by the Deepwater Horizon but for the children of her State and our country who were given up for adoption or placed in foster care.

Senator LANDRIEU knows the joys of adopting first hand, having adopted her two children, Connor and Mary Shannon, and she wants other parents to feel that joy. So she sympathizes with parents who wish to adopt a child but who are struggling to do so—especially since she knows there are children desperate for parents but who remain wards of the State. By matching those parents with that child, she knows that she can create a true family.

So she has led the efforts in the Senate to improve child welfare systems internationally and to make it easier for American parents to adopt children in other countries. She has pushed for Federal funds to create foster care mentoring programs, so that children who are in the foster system have better guidance during the most critical years of their social development.

I know I speak for other Members of this Chamber when I say that we will do our very best to continue the momentum that Senator LANDRIEU has created for finding a permanent, loving home for every American child.

I will deeply miss having her with us but I have absolutely no doubt that MARY LANDRIEU will find new ways to express her devotion to the people of Louisiana and our country. It is not just a tradition in her family; it is her singular passion. I thank her for her amazing service here and I look forward to all the great achievements that are in her future.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my friend, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, my colleague from Louisiana, during her 18 years here in the U.S. Senate.

Senator LANDRIEU was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996. Prior to serving in the Senate, she had already served the people of her State for 16 years—first as a State legislator, and later as a State treasurer. Altogether Senator LANDRIEU's service to the people of Louisiana has spanned nearly 34 years of commitment.

MARY served her constituents with utter conviction, dedication, and persistence—qualities that her colleagues in the U.S. Senate use to describe her.

However, Senator LANDRIEU's dedication can be described in other ways as well.

In her farewell remarks, Senator LANDRIEU discussed how faith and family helped drive her. She draws tremendous strength from her faith, and also her large and supportive family—a family that knows a thing or two about the ups and downs of politics.

Her father, Moon Landrieu, served as a judge, State representative, New Orleans city councilman, and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Her brother, Mitch Landrieu, was Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor, and both her father and brother have served as mayors of New Orleans—her father during an era of renewal, and her brother during an era of rebuilding.

MARY has clearly stepped up to the plate during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the horrendous BP oilspill. Those are the kinds of challenges that none of us expect when we enter public life—but they are the challenges which show our communities what we are made of.

Senator LANDRIEU rose to both challenges. She has worked as hard as any Senator has ever worked to see that her constituents were taken care of. She has pushed hard on Federal agencies to help rebuild, and passed legislation to help with gulf restoration. She has also fought to see that flood insurance rates remain affordable—not just for those in Louisiana, but across the country.

Her efforts have earned the respect of everyone she has worked with, and she earned the opportunity to serve as chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as well as the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. I know that the issues she championed on these two committees were important to her constituents, and I admire her advocacy for jobs in her State and more opportunities for small businesses.

Of course, Senator LANDRIEU's work extended beyond these two committees. For years, she worked on adoption, education, conservation, and other issues that were near and dear to her heart.

All of us will miss MARY's drive, tenacity, and willingness to work with others to get things done. She will continue to be a tough and relentless fighter for Louisiana no matter what her next challenge will be.

Aloha, MARY, a hui hou, "until we meet again."

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