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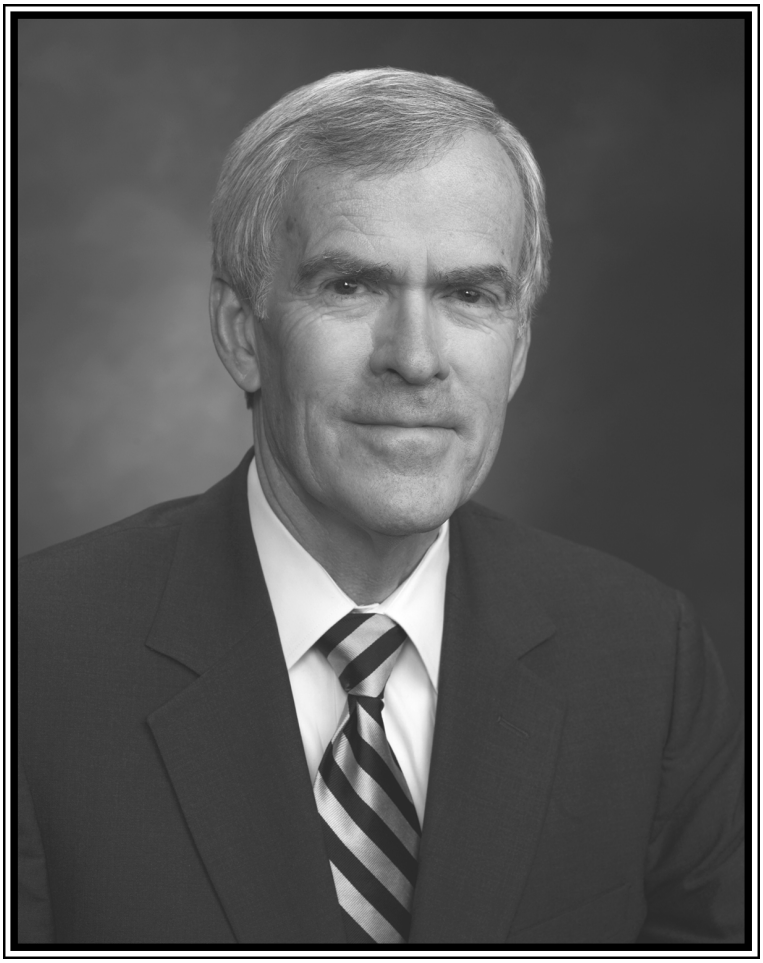
Jeff Bingaman

U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES



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Jeff Bingaman

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Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Jeff Bingaman

United States Senator
1983–2013

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BIOGRAPHY

JEFF BINGAMAN, born October 3, 1943, grew up in Silver City, NM, and attended Silver City public schools. Both his parents were educators. His father Jesse was the chairman of the science department at Western New Mexico University. His mother Beth was an elementary school teacher.

After graduating from Western High School (now Silver High) in 1961, JEFF BINGAMAN attended Harvard University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in government in 1965. He subsequently entered the Stanford University School of Law, where he graduated in 1968. He served in the Army Reserves from 1968 to 1974. In 1969 he began his legal career as assistant New Mexico attorney general and served as counsel to the New Mexico State Constitutional Convention held in Santa Fe in 1969. The following year he entered private practice. In 1978 he was elected attorney general of New Mexico. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate for New Mexico in 1982 and was reelected in the following four terms.

Senator BINGAMAN was committed to improving economic opportunity and economic security for America's working families, and to retaining our Nation's competitive edge in the world economy. He was a leader in the effort to enhance U.S. industrial competitiveness, improve the Nation's trading position in the world, and create high-wage jobs in the United States and New Mexico. He is known for helping launch a major expansion of "dual-use" military and commercial technologies. He was a prime author of the legislation creating SEMATECH, an innovative public-private consortium credited with helping bring the American semiconductor industry back from the doldrums of the 1980s. The Senator also fought for creation and tough enforcement of the U.S.-Japan Semiconductor Agreement in 1986. That agreement, and the creation of SEMATECH, were major factors in Intel Corporation's decision to expand, which produced thousands of jobs in New Mexico. In response to the National Academy of Science's report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm," which raised concerns about the Nation's ability to retain its advantage in the marketplace in

science and technology, Senator Bingaman joined a bipartisan group of Senators to write the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act of 2007. The purpose of the law, called "America COMPETES," was to invest in innovation through research and development and education.

Senator BINGAMAN dedicated a significant amount of his work in the Senate to health care issues. He served as a member of the two committees with primary jurisdiction over health care—the Senate Finance Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pension (HELP) Committee. For his last six Congresses he was the only Democrat to sit on both committees and often served as a bridge on health care issues for both. Much of his work focused on low-income health care programs for children and the elderly through the Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). He also was known to champion reforms to improve the overall quality and efficiency of health care as well as oral health care and health care workforce issues. Notably, during national health reform efforts in 2009 and 2010, Senator BINGAMAN's dual role on the Finance and HELP Committees placed him in a pivotal role; he was asked by HELP Chairman Kennedy to lead negotiations for Title I of the Affordable Care Act and he was asked by Finance Chairman Baucus to participate in the bipartisan Gang of Six negotiations. Senator BINGAMAN took a leading role authoring many provisions in the new law including the creation of health insurance exchanges, insurance market reforms, Medicare payment and quality improvements, oral health care, as well as health care workforce improvements.

JEFF BINGAMAN has been called the "Education Senator" by one of New Mexico's leading newspapers. He was the first Senator to introduce legislation calling for national education goals and academic standards. He was also a cosponsor of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, which established national content and performance standards in core academic subjects such as math, English, and geography, and also encouraged States to develop their own academic content and performance standards. His Technology for Education Act provides schools nationwide with the strategy and resources to help them use educational technologies to assist American students achieve academic standards and prepare them for the workplace. He was a leading advocate for expanding access to the Advanced Placement (AP) Program that enables students to obtain college credit while still in high school. He

emphasized making AP courses available to students from all economic backgrounds.

Senator BINGAMAN served as both chairman and ranking minority member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee over a 12-year period, as well as a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, chairing its Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure. In these roles, Senator BINGAMAN made an indelible mark on the Nation's energy and land conservation policy. He worked to protect and enhance New Mexico's and the Nation's public lands and its natural and cultural resources. He led the charge for passage of a law in 2000 that allowed the Federal Government to acquire for $100 million the 94,761-acre Baca Ranch in the Jemez Mountains—one of only three supervolcanoes in the United States—and to designate it as the Valles Caldera National Preserve to protect its natural values and cultural resources for future generations. In 2009 Senator BINGAMAN won passage of a law that protected more than 2 million acres of Federal land in 9 States as wilderness, added over 1,100 miles of rivers to the National Wild and Scenic River System, and established 4 new national conservation areas and 1 new national monument. Senator BINGAMAN also negotiated and authored the legislation that President Barack Obama used to establish the 242,500-acre Río Grande del Norte National Monument in Taos County, NM—the first large landscape protected by President Obama using his authority under the Antiquities Act.

Senator BINGAMAN was also a strong champion of Indian Country. He authored legislation that resolved an ownership dispute between Sandia Pueblo and the Federal Government over title to Sandia Mountain near Albuquerque and legislation that settled three separate longstanding Indian water rights claims by the Navajo Nation, Taos Pueblo, and the four Pueblo Indian tribes in the Pojoaque Basin, ensuring that these tribes will have secure and reliable access to clean water in the future. He also worked to secure passage of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 which provided $3.4 billion for the Cobell Indian Trust Settlement.

His focus on diversifying the Nation's supply of both electricity and transportation fuels ushered in an era of expansive growth in renewable power and fuels, while facilitating the technological developments that gave rise to unprecedented discovery and production of domestic gas and oil reserves.

His work on energy efficiency produced new Federal policies promoting energy conservation through more efficient lighting, appliances, manufacturing, vehicles, and buildings. This legacy has contributed greatly to increasing U.S. self-reliance in energy, while also reducing carbon emissions.

His leadership in creating ARPA–E, a Department of Energy based investment fund for early stage potentially "game-changing," energy technologies will yield benefits to the Nation's energy production and conservation for decades to come.

Public safety concerns were of equal importance to the Senator, as he worked to make America's streets, schools, and homes safer. He supported a crime bill that provided funds for more than 300 police officers in New Mexico as well as prisons and crime prevention initiatives for youth.

He was known for his long-term approach to defense issues and for his critical thinking on issues of international concern. He was a strong and consistent voice for reducing the threat posed by nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons worldwide. He pushed for ratification of the START II Treaty and Chemical Weapons Convention and for reduction of the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction.

His work on international policies also included efforts to strengthen non-military relationships, such as through collaboration on science research and technology commercialization, and his work reflected his commitment to human rights, as evidenced by his success in winning funding for workers rights enforcement in the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA–DR). He advocated the provision of U.S. international trade preferences to developing countries such as Haiti to complement traditional foreign assistance and speed economic growth in those countries.

Senator BINGAMAN served on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from 1985 to 2013, for which he was chairman or ranking minority member from 1999 to 2013; the Committee on Finance from 2001 to 2013; the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions from 1987 to 2013; and the Joint Economic Committee from 1987 to 2013. Before joining the Finance Committee, he served on the Committee on Armed Services for nearly two decades. He also served for shorter periods on the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Ethics, the Committee on Government Affairs, the Senate Impeachment Trial Com-

mittee, and the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem.

He is married to Anne K. Bingaman, a longtime New Mexico attorney, and they have a son John.

Farewell to the Senate

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, in 1981, in his first inaugural address, President Reagan said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

I came to the Senate 2 years later in 1983 with the firm belief that in most cases his statement was wrong. I believed then and I believe now that the Federal Government can be a constructive force for good; in protecting and maintaining the civil liberties of all Americans, in maintaining and strengthening our economy, in protecting our environment, and in helping Americans live productive and fulfilling lives.

As I look back over the last 30 years, many of the arguments that have consumed our time at the Senate, whether on questions of spending or taxes or regulation or fiscal policy, those questions have divided between those who saw government as the problem and those who believed it could and should be a constructive force for helping the American people deal with problems. I consider myself firmly in the second camp. In each of the major areas of national concern, I would like to be able to report progress for the country since I arrived in the Senate. Unfortunately, the record of progress is not so clear. In many areas, we have made progress, but there are also instances where we have lost more ground than we have gained. As issues continue to be reconsidered, I am reminded of the well-known statement that "success is never permanent in Washington."

With regard to our Nation's security from foreign aggression, the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union were clearly the most positive developments we have seen in the last 30 years. If the end of the cold war was the most positive national security development I witnessed since coming to the Senate, the invasion of Iraq to bring about regime change in that country was the biggest national security blunder. That blunder cost our Nation dearly in service men and women killed and injured and in resources that should have been used to strengthen our economy here at home. Last month, I was stopped by a woman

from northern New Mexico who thanked me for my service in the Senate and particularly for my vote against granting President Bush the authority to take our country into that war.

The Nation's fiscal policy is very much the focus of the Senate's attention during these final weeks of the 112th Congress. On this issue, again, we have made one step forward during the time I have been in the Senate, but, unfortunately, we have taken two steps back. I arrived in the Senate in January 1983, a period of large deficits compared to anything the country had experienced for several decades. Those large deficits grew and persisted through the Reagan Presidency.

In 1990, a democratically controlled Congress and President George H.W. Bush made a significant step forward, reining in those deficits with the enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of that year, 1990. That law created the statutory paygo requirement. It also increased marginal rates for the wealthiest Americans, and I was proud to support the measure. In 1993, another major step was taken when, at the urging of President Clinton, Congress enacted the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of that year, 1993. Again, that measure both raised taxes and constrained spending. It was denounced by many in the Senate as sure to throw the economy into recession. In fact, the opposite occurred, and the economy prospered. As a result of these policy changes and the strong economy of the 1990s, we enjoyed a period of balanced budgets and even surpluses in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Unfortunately, those surpluses were not to continue. President George W. Bush urged Congress to cut taxes and Congress was all too willing to oblige, and although I didn't support the 2001 or 2003 tax cuts, they were passed. At about the same time we were cutting taxes more than we could afford, we were also going to war in Afghanistan and in Iraq and adding a new drug benefit to Medicare. No provision was made to raise revenue or cut spending elsewhere to pay for any of these mammoth undertakings. Of course, the cost of health care, both the cost to government and to families and businesses who purchased private insurance, continued to grow at too rapid a pace. So the result was a return to large deficits and, of course, those large deficits grew substantially larger because of the recession that began in December 2007.

Today, we are trying to strengthen our economy while at the same time trying to reduce projected deficits. That long-term deficit reduction will, once again, require higher taxes as well as new constraints on spending, and I hope that even in these final days of this 112th Congress, we can reach agreement to proceed.

As regards health care, in the long-standing fight to provide Americans with access to affordable health care, we have seen significant progress. In 1997 we enacted the Children's Health Insurance Program which resulted in nearly 8 million American children obtaining access to health care. Of course, in 2010 we adopted the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This unfairly maligned legislation has the promise of moving us much closer to the goal of universal health care, and I am proud to have worked with my colleagues in the writing of that legislation and in seeing it enacted. Now that the recent election is behind us, I hope the efforts to repeal that legislation are at an end. I also hope the two parties can find ways to improve the legislation with a particular focus on better controlling the growth and the cost of health care.

In addressing the various energy challenges facing the country, again, there is progress to report. In 2005 and 2007 Congress enacted major energy bills. Those bills moved us toward a better and more comprehensive national energy policy. Those bills promoted an adequate and more diverse supply of energy. They increased the efficiency and effectiveness of how we use energy in our economy. They promoted strong market reforms and consumer protections for electricity, and they struck a balance between meeting our energy goals and lessening environmental impacts of energy, including overall greenhouse gas emissions. As a result of that balanced approach, we have arrested what had been an increasing dependence on foreign oil. Coupled with technological advances that have opened new sources of supply, we are headed to greater levels of energy independence than we had thought possible even as recently as 7 years ago.

The bipartisan consensus that allowed us to enact those bills has, unfortunately, eluded us in the current Congress. I hope in future Congresses there will reemerge a recognition that climate change is a reality and that our policies to meet our energy needs must also deal responsibly with environmental issues, including the damage caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

As regards our Nation's policy on education, the good news is we seem to have moved past the period where the Republican nominee for President announced a commitment to eliminating the Federal Department of Education. President Clinton deserves great credit for making the support, particularly of higher education, a priority of his Presidency. President George W. Bush deserves credit for making a serious effort to reform and improve elementary and secondary education. Although that effort to improve elementary and secondary education has not succeeded as many of us who supported it had hoped, I remain persuaded the Federal Government needs to persist in trying to play a constructive role in improving education in this country.

The States and local school districts deserve great credit for developing and adopting the Common Core Standards, and I hope future Congresses will strongly support the steps and the funding needed to upgrade student performance by implementing those standards. President Obama and his administration have demonstrated their strong commitment to this goal.

In addition to these areas of concern I have mentioned, we have seen some progress in maintaining and advancing the science and engineering enterprise in this country. As the cold war came to an end, we successfully found ways to better integrate the strengths of our defense laboratories into the civilian economy through technology transfer and partnering. We have also seen some important increases in funding for research, particularly in support of the life sciences, and that growth has stagnated in recent years. It needs to continue and be replenished, but as we continue that support, we must also recognize the need to do more to support research and development in the physical sciences and in engineering.

One significant advance I was proud to support was the establishment of ARPA–E, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy within the Department of Energy. That effort to identify breakthrough science and engineering initiatives to meet our energy challenges holds great promise for our Nation and for the entire world.

We have also seen progress in providing increased protection for public lands. One particular bill in that area was the omnibus public lands bill that was passed in 2009. It added wilderness protection to over 2 million acres, designated 1,100 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and added more than

2,800 miles for the national trail system. I was proud to be part of the effort to enact that legislation.

Finally, I will make a few comments on the way we in the Congress conduct our own business. Any fair assessment has to conclude that in this area, we have lost ground in the last two decades. Public opinion of the performance of Congress is at an alltime low and it is not hard to see why. I will mention three obvious ways in which the functioning of Congress has worsened.

First is the willingness of some in Congress to shut down the government. In 1995, we saw the leadership of the House of Representatives demonstrate that they consider refusing to fund the government as an acceptable bargaining ploy in their efforts to prevail in disputes with President Clinton and Democrats on spending issues. Since 1995, that threat to withhold appropriations has been made several more times. As we saw then, shutting down the government is costly, it is wasteful, and it is harmful to Americans. I hope this irresponsible threat will soon be viewed as unacceptable.

A second way the malfunctioning of Congress became clear was when in August 2011—just less than 18 months ago—the Republican leadership in Congress determined that another tool at their disposal was the ability to refuse to increase the debt ceiling. By doing so, they could deny the Secretary of the Treasury the authority to borrow money to meet the obligations the government had already undertaken. To my knowledge, this was the first time the congressional leadership of one of our major parties had stated their willingness to see our Nation default on its debt.

This threat to force a default on the obligations of the Federal Government resulted in the sequester of government spending, which is scheduled to begin January 1. It also resulted in a downgrading of U.S. debt by one of the leading credit rating agencies.

We now hear renewed threats to use this so-called leverage as a way to demand cuts in Medicare and in Social Security. Once again, I believe this is an irresponsible action I hope Congress will get beyond.

Of course, a third way in which the functioning of the Senate—not the full Congress but the Senate—has worsened is the abuse of Senate rules allowing unlimited debate or filibuster. As the Senate currently operates, a threat of filibuster is used routinely to obstruct the Senate from doing its business, even when the issue before the Senate is relatively uncontroversial. Many times following a delay caused by ob-

struction, an overwhelming number of Senators will vote for the legislation or the nomination which the Senate has been delayed in considering. In the next Congress, I strongly encourage my colleagues to make the necessary changes in Senate rules to limit the ability of one or a few Senators to obstruct the Senate from doing its regular business. My colleague Senator Udall of New Mexico is on the floor with me. He has been a leader in this effort to get these rules changed, and I commend him for that.

So the record of our progress both as a country and as a Congress over the last 30 years has been mixed. There is progress to report. I have mentioned some of that. There are also many missteps and failures we need to acknowledge.

My conclusion remains that many of our challenges as a nation can only be met with the help of a strong and effective national government. There are times when the actions of the government are more a problem than a solution, but there are many more occasions where enlightened action by the government is important and even essential.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to have represented the people of New Mexico in the Senate for the last 30 years. I thank the people of my State for their confidence in electing me and supporting me during the time I have served here. I thank the very capable and committed men and women who have worked on my staff, both in Washington and in New Mexico, during these 30 years. I thank all my colleagues here in the Senate for their friendship and help to me during this period. Of course, I thank my wife Anne and our son John and his wife Marlene for their support that has allowed me to serve in the Senate.

To all my friends and colleagues who will be here in the next Congress and in future Congresses, I hope you can find the common ground necessary for our country to effectively move forward and meet its challenges. The endeavor is a worthy one, and I wish you every success.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTES

TO

JEFF BINGAMAN

Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *December 12, 2012*

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to comment about some wonderful men in the Senate who are retiring on both sides of the aisle. Earlier today I spoke about my deep affection and sorry-to-see-go friends Olympia Snowe and Kay Bailey Hutchison, but I want to rise as the dean of the women in the Senate to say some very special words about very special men on both sides of the aisle. Because when I came to the Senate, it was only Nancy Kassebaum and me, and yet we worked on so many issues together. There are really wonderful men here who supported me, supported our issues, but really stood up for those States and their communities. . . .

I want to say goodbye to our friend JEFF BINGAMAN of New Mexico, someone who has also brought intellectual rigor, a lawyer's insistence on thoroughness, and a real commitment to people. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with him on the HELP Committee, especially on the Affordable Care Act. I was proud to support all that he did, particularly in developing and focusing on the health workforce for the future.

I knew I could count on JEFF in the committee and on the floor as one of those men whom I refer to as a Galahad, where men of quality always supported us women as we sought equality. Our initiatives to end discrimination against women in health care and in the workplace were some of our proudest achievements in working together. . . .

I wanted to be sure that the day would not end without my acknowledging these wonderful people who have given a big part of their lives to making this country a better place. I want to, in the most heartfelt way—I am so sorry we did not have a bipartisan dinner or party to be able to express this. I would have liked to have been in the same room, breaking bread with them, in order to be able to tell them how much we appreciate them, across party lines, across those lines that ordinarily divide us. They came from dif-

ferent parts of the country, they arrived in the Senate with different objectives, they will leave under different circumstances. But I want to again let them know that each and every one of them had a positive impact on me and I think a wonderful impact on the future of this country. So I wish them well. God bless and Godspeed.

THURSDAY, *December 13, 2012*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today with a difficult task: to honor a great Senator and a great friend, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN.

This is difficult for two reasons. First, Senator BINGAMAN is not one to call attention to himself, and, second, he does so as briefly as possible. On both counts—let me just say now—I am going to fall short.

JEFF is that rare combination of character—brilliant and humble. For JEFF, it is about the work, not about his own ego, not about a monument to himself. For three decades in the U.S. Senate he has been making a difference for the American people and for our home State of New Mexico.

Public service is a noble profession—when it isn't swamped by money, when it isn't held hostage to hyperpartisanship. JEFF is the best example I know of the nobility of politics. The origin of the word "noble" is "*nobilis*"—well known—from the Latin "*noscere*" to come to know. JEFF, who is a scholar, probably knows that. I had to look it up. But, knowing, making sense of the world, using that knowledge to make the world a better place, that is what public service is supposed to do, and that is what JEFF BINGAMAN does.

By Washington standards, JEFF is a man of few words. When he comes to this floor to speak, we listen. If I am at my desk in my office, I will turn up the television, I will stop what I am doing, because I know that he will say something insightful, something worth knowing, something worth thinking about.

When JEFF came to the Senate 30 years ago, this was a different place. There was a new President. There was a fierce battle of ideas, of ideology, of where the country needed to go. Principles did not matter any less then than they do now. But folks worked together. They clashed, but they also compromised.

We all know what has happened since then. Washington has become more and more polarized. But, time and again,

JEFF BINGAMAN has been a voice of reason, of doing what is best for our country—no grandstanding, just hard work, paying attention to details, getting problems solved, getting the job done. He is an inspiring role model.

In his own quiet way, JEFF does something essential: He challenges us to think a little harder, look farther down the road, see how we can move our country forward, not just today, but far into the future. He doesn't look for the limelight. He looks for solutions. And his accomplishments make for a very long list.

He has been a truly great chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has done so much to protect our natural resources, to build a clean energy economy, for jobs, for the environment. I was proud to work with JEFF on the first renewable electricity standard in Congress. He led the Senate bill, and I led the House bill. As always, I learned from his example: steady, focused, and reasonable.

We will continue to carry the torch on renewable and clean energy standards in Congress, following in his footsteps. Today, we can be proud that 30 States—including New Mexico—have enforceable renewable standards. Together, these cover the large majority of the U.S. population.

JEFF also shepherded the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the first comprehensive energy bill in 13 years. A "do it all" energy bill that covered renewables, nuclear, clean coal, and oil and gas.

Two years later, he took the lead in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. That bill was an even more ambitious effort than 2005. As the *National Journal* reported, it was "the most sweeping energy efficiency legislation ever put into law."

On both of these bills, JEFF worked in a commendable, bipartisan fashion with Senator Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico. He also achieved these compromise bills with a Republican House in 2005, a Democratic House in 2007, and both were signed into law by Republican President George W. Bush.

The public lands package of 2009 was another great achievement. JEFF reached across the aisle for compromise and protected 2 million acres in 9 States as new wilderness areas, and more than 1,000 miles of rivers and streams—one of the greatest land protection laws ever. It will benefit generations to come, and it is part of the legacy of JEFF BINGAMAN.

We are spending time these days debating the failings of the Senate, the gridlock, the partisanship. In contrast, JEFF's committee has been a leading light of cooperation and compromise. When other committees lost their bipartisan way, the Energy Committee kept steady. I believe the standard he set will shape future energy and natural resources policy in years to come. I hope it guides us next year.

When this body has looked for answers, so often it has turned to JEFF. No surprise that he was one of the Gang of 6 to negotiate health care reform. When real solutions are on the agenda, JEFF will have a seat at the table.

JEFF was also one of the key negotiators in the No Child Left Behind Act, and he pushed for the Technology for Education Act and the America COMPETES Act—raising standards for all students, increasing opportunity for all Americans. Because he knows that investments in education and technology and training are crucial, crucial for the jobs of the future, crucial for our country.

Education, health care, jobs, energy, and the environment—JEFF has been a leader in all these areas. What comes through over and over is he never forgets the people who brought him here. He never forgets that what we do here is about families, is about communities, is about making a better future for our children and grandchildren. That is what drives him, and that is what has made him such a great Senator.

One of the things I admire most about JEFF BINGAMAN is his courage. You know where he stands, and he is not afraid to go against the current. He was 1 of 23 Senators who voted against war with Iraq. As he said later, "I think that was the right vote, but it was not a popular vote."

I have valued his counsel on many occasions. It has been an honor to serve with him. He is going to be missed—not just for his good humor, not just for his friendship, but, more important, for his character and wisdom. On both sides of the aisle, his absence will be felt.

With typical humility, JEFF would be the first to say he has a great staff, and he does. When I first came to Congress, on the House side, JEFF and his staff reached out to me, and to my staff, always available to help, always ready to work together, to try and do what is best for our State and our Nation.

Finally, I know JEFF would also say he could not have accomplished so much without the support of his amazing wife Anne. They met at Stanford Law School, and have walked

side by side, equal partners, ever since. Anne Bingaman is as remarkable as her husband, and he would very likely insist more so.

My dad once said that the measure of someone isn't about winning elections or awards or honors. It is what the people who know you best think about you. For those of us who know JEFF BINGAMAN, he is the real deal.

JEFF BINGAMAN has lived a life of service—substantial, enduring, noble service. I have no doubt that though he is leaving the Senate, he will find other ways to serve, and New Mexico and our Nation will be the better for it.

JEFF, thank you. Thank you for your leadership, for your friendship, and for your always wise counsel. As you and Anne begin a new chapter in your lives, Jill and I wish you the very best.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague, Senator Udall, for his overly generous comments and indicate that 30 or 40 years from now when he retires from the Senate, I will be glad to make similar comments about his service. I could make similar comments about his service already based on the time he has served our State as attorney general and in the Congress and now in the Senate, but he does a tremendous job for New Mexico and for the entire country here, and it is an honor for me to get to serve with him. This will be 4 years that we will have completed as the two Senators from New Mexico, and it has been a great pleasure for me to have a good friend and a very capable Senator to work with. So I again appreciate the overly generous comments.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. Shaheen). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I spoke about Senator BINGAMAN. I know the Presiding Officer is on his committee and she feels the same way about him and all the work he has done. It is going to be a sad day for all of us when he exits at the end of this year, but he is a pretty remarkable leader.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague from New Mexico, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, who is retiring from the Senate at the end of this year. Senator BINGAMAN has been a strong voice for the people of New Mexico, first as their attorney general and then during 30 years of service in the Senate. He has brought a keen intellect and a commonsense perspective to the Senate that should make the people of New Mexico proud. He has worked to build consensus across party lines to help strengthen our Nation.

Senator BINGAMAN and I serve together on the Finance Committee, and we also worked together on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee during my first term in the Senate. I greatly admire the thoughtfulness he applies to every issue. Throughout his career, he has focused intently on finding solutions to the challenges facing our country.

For example, in 2009 I worked closely with him and other colleagues on the Finance Committee in crafting the health care reform bill that was signed into law as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. He was a key author of that legislation, which has already improved millions of people's lives.

Senator BINGAMAN has brought a tremendous breadth of knowledge to his chairmanship of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has long understood the need to reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign energy and has worked diligently to push Congress to create a national energy policy suited to the 21st century. That includes the Energy Independence and Security Act, which helped put us on the right path by improving gas mileage in the vehicles Americans drive, increasing production of domestic biofuels, and boosting energy efficiency in homes and businesses across our country.

Senator BINGAMAN also understands the importance of education as a source of opportunity to our people and a key investment in the ongoing prosperity of our country. As a member of the Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator BINGAMAN has worked to advance teacher training and student technological literacy, and boost

graduation rates at underperforming schools. He also helped pass legislation that increases student aid and caps Federal student loan payments to assist students struggling with excessive debt.

Senator BINGAMAN has been an outstanding public servant for the people of New Mexico and our Nation. I will miss having him as a colleague in the Senate, but I also know that his wife Anne will be excited to have him back home. I wish him happiness and success in whatever he chooses to do in the next chapter of his life.

TUESDAY, *December 18, 2012*

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in these closing days of the 112th Congress, the Senate is saying farewell to one of our most popular and respected Members, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN of New Mexico.

When JEFF came to this body 30 years ago, he had already led a life of accomplishment. Raised in smalltown New Mexico, Silver City, he was an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Harvard College and Stanford Law School, where he met his future wife Anne. While at Stanford, he worked on Senator Robert F. Kennedy's campaign for President. At the age of 35, he was elected New Mexico attorney general in 1978. Four years later, at the age of 39, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

During his three decades in this body, JEFF BINGAMAN has been a classic workhorse Senator as opposed to being a show horse Senator. He is truly remarkable and distinctive among Senators for his willingness to shun the limelight and share the credit in order to get important work done for his State and for his country.

Senator BINGAMAN has been a much-valued colleague of mine on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, but he has really made his mark in the Senate—a lasting mark—in his role as chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As chair and also at times ranking member of that committee, he has played a leading role in shaping energy policy for our Nation, authoring bipartisan legislation promoting a balanced energy portfolio encompassing all energy sources.

Senator BINGAMAN worked closely with his New Mexico colleague, Senator Pete Domenici, to pass the landmark 2005 Energy Policy Act, signed into law by President George W.

Bush. This was signed, I might add, appropriately at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. That comprehensive law established groundbreaking policies on many fronts, including a renewable fuels standard for biofuels, support for alternative vehicles, loan guarantees for new energy technologies that reduce greenhouse gases, establishment of policies to upgrade the electrical grid, plus a whole range of measures to promote energy efficiency.

In 2007 he again collaborated with Senator Domenici in securing passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act. This act included an ambitious increase in vehicle fuel efficiency standards—from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon by the year 2020—as well as significantly greater commitments to the use of biofuels. These two provisions are largely responsible for the significant decrease in oil imports that we have seen over the past several years.

More broadly, Senator BINGAMAN has played a critical role in ensuring the vitality of America's energy research and development community, championing energy programs at all levels, including universities, national laboratories, and in private industry.

I can't close without mentioning a great living legacy of the Senator from New Mexico: his 2009 public lands management bill that set aside more than 2 million acres in 9 States as protected wilderness, including a 5,300-acre national monument to protect Paleozoic fossils located north of Los Cruces, NM. I can say that Senator BINGAMAN stands in line with those great heroes of America who set aside public lands for all future generations, people such as Theodore Roosevelt. Senator BINGAMAN takes his rightful place there.

For the last three decades in this body, Senator BINGAMAN has been a tireless advocate for the people of New Mexico and a determined champion of the future of clean and renewable energy for the United States. He has been an outstanding Senator and a wonderful friend. I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in wishing JEFF and Anne the very best in the years ahead.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, over his time in this body, JEFF BINGAMAN has worn many hats: champion of education, expert on energy policy, steward of our Nation's nuclear arsenal, thoughtful voice on national security.

He has approached each of these varied responsibilities with an attitude aimed not at attention-grabbing or point scoring, but at practical, fact-driven problem solving. In the accurate description of the *Washington Post*, "BINGAMAN isn't

one to grab the spotlight, but this six-term senator's logical, cerebral approach tends to get things one."

He has indeed gotten things done, for the people of New Mexico first and foremost, but his practical approach has benefited Americans from every State. I know first hand that the people of Michigan have benefited from his leadership.

I have worked closely over the years with Senator BINGAMAN to preserve programs that are vital to America's manufacturing sector, the heart of my State's economy. His support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program and the Technology Innovation Program has made a major difference in the ability of American manufacturers to research and develop new technologies, to increase efficiency, to improve supply chains and to out-innovate our overseas competitors.

The people of Michigan also have benefited from Senator BINGAMAN's leadership of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He worked with me to enact legislation that has brought significant improvements to Michigan parks and recreational lands. With Senator BINGAMAN's assistance, we have established the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, preserving the site of one of the most important battles of the War of 1812; made major progress toward completion of the North Country National Scenic Trail; enhanced wilderness protection at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore; and made many improvements at Keweenaw National Historical Park. So, he has played a major role in helping preserve and protect numerous jewels of our State's rich history, culture, and natural beauty.

From his post on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator BINGAMAN has been one of our Nation's most influential voices on energy, an issue that affects nearly every aspect of economic and environmental policy. He has worked with skill, intelligence, and determination to find practical, bipartisan solutions in an issue area too often dominated by politics and powerful interests. As we seek to strengthen our Nation's competitiveness, his advocacy on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other important topics will yield important advantages.

While we have not had the benefit of his service in this Congress, Senator BINGAMAN served in the past with distinction on the Armed Services Committee. In his committee tenure he chaired the Emerging Threats and Capabilities and Strategic Forces Subcommittees. His deep knowledge of science and technology issues was of great value in com-

mittee deliberations, in particular during the difficult debate over the Bush administration's determination to invade Iraq. His expertise on energy and nuclear issues gave heft to his skepticism over claims that Iraq had sought to acquire uranium from Niger, claims that turned out to be false.

As the son of two educators, it only makes sense that Senator BINGAMAN would be careful, detail-oriented, and reliant on facts rather than assumptions. It's no wonder that in addition to his work on energy, defense, and natural resources, he has been one of the Senate's most consistent and effective advocates for quality education.

On all of these issues, and so many others, JEFF BINGAMAN has sought solutions and consensus rather than attention and division. His careful, deliberate style, his focus on facts, and his determination to find practical answers to difficult challenges have been of enormous value to the Senate, to the people of New Mexico, and to the Nation. They will be missed in the Senate, and so will he. I wish JEFF and Anne all the best as they move on from the Senate.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2012*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes today to honor my colleague, the senior Senator from New Mexico, JEFF BINGAMAN, as he retires from a long career of service to our country.

For 30 years Senator BINGAMAN has been a dedicated representative of the people of New Mexico, but for 26 of those years he was the junior Senator from New Mexico. The only person I know of who was a junior Senator longer than Senator BINGAMAN was Fritz Hollings. He was a junior Senator for many decades to Strom Thurmond. But 26 years as a junior Senator still makes you a fairly senior Senator. JEFF served alongside Senator Pete Domenici, the longest serving Senator in New Mexico's history. Until 2009 he was the most senior junior Senator.

JEFF BINGAMAN has never been one to get hung up on titles and credits. If there was ever a conscience of this body, it is JEFF BINGAMAN, a man who has been called by others, including Byron Dorgan, a workhorse. That is really true. For three decades he has quietly but diligently fought for the people of New Mexico and this country.

American industrialist Henry Kaiser once gave this bit of advice: "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt."

That is JEFF BINGAMAN. That could have been written for JEFF BINGAMAN by Henry Kaiser. That has been JEFF BINGAMAN's motto for years. He is not one for flashy press conferences. Most of the time he is too busy.

JEFF learned humility in the small town of Silver City, NM, where he grew up. His father was a professor and his mom a teacher, and they instilled in him a love and appreciation for education—and that is an understatement. He got his bachelor's degree from Harvard and his law degree from Stanford. Those are two of the finest educational institutions in the world, and he has a degree from both of them, Harvard and Stanford.

At Stanford, where he was going to law school, he met his wonderful wife Anne. I have such warmth for this woman. We have traveled together. I can remember trips we took on Senate codels; she was always the life of the party. She is a great match for JEFF—JEFF being quiet, subdued; Anne, not always so. I love them both. Anne is a political powerhouse in her own right. She served 3 years as head of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice under President Bill Clinton.

After they finished their law degrees, JEFF and Anne returned to New Mexico, and they both entered the private practice of law. There, JEFF spent 6 years in the Army Reserves, and at that time he and Anne had their son John. Senator BINGAMAN served a year as assistant attorney general before being elected attorney general of New Mexico in 1978. Four years later he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

As time evolves here, you see it in the face of our children. I can remember that when I first came to this body, JEFF had already been here 4 years. We had our Senate retreats, and there was little John, and I watched him grow as we did the retreats. I saw him just a short time ago, this handsome young man, now working on his own in New York in a very important job.

In addition to being a committed advocate for the people of New Mexico, JEFF has been a distinguished chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As chairman, he has pushed for solutions to perhaps the greatest crisis of our time: global climate change. He has run into brick walls many times. As the Presiding Officer knows, it has been difficult to get much done. But it is not because JEFF BINGAMAN hasn't tried. I am so disappointed that JEFF is leaving that committee with so much unfinished work. Certain Senators

have held up hundreds of bills in that committee. What a shame. But that is what has happened.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005—passed thanks to Senator BINGAMAN's leadership—changed the Federal Government's role in energy policy. It created energy efficiency and renewable tax credits that have grown the crucial green energy industry. He led that charge. Two years later JEFF guided Congress to raise vehicle fuel efficiency standards for the first time in 32 years.

Senator BINGAMAN also serves on the Finance Committee. He is tireless there, whether working on ObamaCare—and he was instrumental in the progress of that, working with Senator Baucus, Senator Conrad, and others. He has also served on the Joint Economic Committee. He has been a valued Democratic Member of this body. In the caucus, he has been terrific.

He has been someone I can call upon to ask for advice. Over the years we have served together, he didn't come and visit with me often, but when JEFF BINGAMAN wanted to see me, I knew immediately that he had thought through and knew what he wanted to talk about and knew what he wanted me to help him with. I think so much of him, I admire him, and I appreciate him. I will always remember this good man and the work he has done. I am sorry to see this brilliant, hard-working leader depart this body.

When JEFF announced his retirement a couple years ago, this is what he said:

> It is not easy to get elected to the Senate, and it is not easy to decide to leave the Senate. There is important work that remains to be done. That is true today, and it will be the case at the end of this Congress. It will be true at the end of every future Congress as well.

Again, he hit the mark: There is plenty of important work left to be done. I am only sorry he won't be here to help us do that work.

I congratulate Senator BINGAMAN and his wife Anne on their long, productive careers. I wish them the very best in the years to come.

Mr. REED. Madam President, at this time, I wish to take a few minutes to salute my colleagues who are retiring at the end of this year with the conclusion of the 112th Congress: Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, JEFF BINGAMAN of New Mexico, Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Jim DeMint of South Carolina, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, Jon Kyl of Arizona, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, Richard Lugar of In-

diana, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Olympia Snowe of Maine, and Jim Webb of Virginia. They have all worked ceaselessly to give their constituents the best representation and give the country the benefit of their views, their wisdom, and their experience. They are men and women who are committed to the Nation, and they have every day in different ways contributed to this Senate and to our great country.

I wish to thank them personally for their service, and, in so many cases, their personal kindness to me; for listening to my points and for, together, hopefully, serving this Senate and this Nation in a more positive and progressive way.

In particular, let me say a few words about some of the Members with whom I have had the privilege to work more closely. . . .

JEFF BINGAMAN has distinguished himself through his work on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to improve our Nation's energy policy, particularly improving our energy efficiency. He has the vision and knowledge which he has displayed so many times to deal with the difficult issues that face us with respect to the appropriate use of energy.

He has also focused on some of the greatest challenges facing our educational system, including preventing dropouts and promoting the use of education technology. . . .

I could go on with all of my colleagues, just thanking them for their friendship, for their camaraderie, and for their commitment to the Nation and the Senate. As they depart, they have left an extraordinary legacy. Now it is our responsibility to carry on in so many different ways, and I hope we measure up to what they have done. If we do, then we can go forward confidently.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. COONS. . . . There are so many other Senators I want to speak about today [besides Daniel Inouye], but let me turn to a few, if I might, and give some insight for the folks who only see Members of this Chamber on cable TV shows or in the give-and-take of election season or who only know them as the cutout and caricatures that the public thinks of as Senators. If there is a common thread between them, it is that they share that loyalty, work ethic, and humility that so characterized Senator Inouye in his decades here. . . .

I have had the honor to serve these past 2 years with Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico, chairman of the Energy Committee. He is one of the kindest, smartest, gentlest people I

have ever met. He has been a pleasure to work with on the Energy and Natural Resource Committee.

I remember we were both speaking at a conference on advanced energy research last year out at National Harbor. Thousands of scientists, investors, and entrepreneurs were there. I pulled up in front of the massive convention hall, and right out in front was a Prius with New Mexico plates. Sure enough, Chairman JEFF BINGAMAN jumped out of the driver's seat with no staff.

Here was the chairman of the Energy Committee and a Senator for nearly 30 years driving himself to a major policy speech in his Prius. He practiced what he preached as he prepared to deliver an important speech in a moment that showed his humility.

As unassuming a man as Senator BINGAMAN is, when he speaks, you listen. He is living proof that the value of one's words can and should exceed their volume. On that day at National Harbor, Senator BINGAMAN delivered a message similar to one he had given a decade earlier in a report entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." Senator BINGAMAN saw that this country was falling behind in the race for innovation and investment in research and education. These are things that lay the foundation for long-term competitiveness. This vision and concern haunted him, so he teamed up with our great colleague from Tennessee, Lamar Alexander, and challenged the National Academy of Sciences to study this trend and offer recommendations. From that challenge, we got the seminal study, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

It asked what it would take for America to continue to lead in innovation. That led to the America COMPETES Act and the creation of ARPA–E, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy. The very conference at which we had been speaking was the ARPA–E annual conference. Both of these important accomplishments played vital roles in our future competitiveness. They are focused on nurturing innovation and creating a political system where political, scientific, and economic forces work together and not against each other.

That is JEFF BINGAMAN. That is his sweeping, long-range vision, and one we should all heed. His commitment to thoughtful and forward-looking service on our Nation's long-term competitiveness will be sorely missed. But even more, many of us will miss his reserved, dignified passion. . . .

So here we are, 5 days before my family celebrates Christmas and 12 days before the new year and the beginning of

the so-called fiscal cliff. Our politics have paralyzed this Chamber and this town. But what the example of all of these remarkable Senators has shown us, what it has taught me is that we can still be better than our politics.

The humanity of this place, too often shoved aside by the politics of the moment, shows us that we can do better. One by one, these Senators, in delivering their farewell addresses to this Chamber, stood at their desks and each in turn urged us to find a way to return to the days when Senators knew each other and worked together. What will it take to get us to that point again—a horrific tragedy in an elementary school, a dangerous economic cliff, some devastating attack, a cyberassault on America?

Our retiring colleagues are each telling us, each in turn, that it is not too late to restore the humanity of this Chamber and make a positive difference in the lives of all we serve. Will we heed their call? I hope and pray we will because we can do better. We must do better. And in the spirit of each of these departing colleagues, I will do my level best. I hope we all can commit to doing the same.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

FRIDAY, *December 21, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, at the close of each session of Congress, the Senate has traditionally taken a moment to express our appreciation for the service those who are retiring have provided to the people of their home State and our Nation. It gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions that every Senator makes to the day-to-day operations of the Congress and the work they have been a part of as we have worked together to craft the laws that govern the Nation.

Over the years I have learned a great deal about how the Senate works and how to be an effective representative for the people of my home State from one of the best, JEFF BINGAMAN. He has compiled quite a record that he can be very proud of, and he has done it quietly, almost behind the scenes as he has shown himself to be a workhorse and not a show horse.

For those of us from the West, that is quite a compliment. In a nutshell, it means that someone is a lot more concerned with getting results than in getting the credit. It proves the

old saying that you can get just about anything done if you don't care who gets the credit for it.

When I first arrived in the Senate, I had always believed in the importance of getting acquainted with how things work by taking a close look at how the people who were getting the results that I was equally committed to achieving were doing it. Using that as my standard, one Senator who caught my attention quickly was JEFF BINGAMAN.

JEFF is a fellow Westerner and he knows and understands the issues that are so important to the people back home. As I watched him in action, I could quickly see why he was a success story here. He had a reputation for his ability to work with both sides of the aisle to get the results the people of his home State had sent him here to achieve. He had an understanding of the ramifications of the legislation we were working on that was second to none. Taken together, all of that had helped to make him an important ally in any legislative battle that needed to be won.

As I got to know him, I looked to him for his leadership on the issues that were on the minds of the people back home in Wyoming. He was taking the lead on a number of them as he worked to increase the awareness of our colleagues about matters like open spaces, water, and the future of our energy industry.

Over the years, JEFF has been a mentor to me. I have learned a great deal from him from our work together on Western issues and from our service on the task groups we both worked on. JEFF has an ability to summarize a difficult issue simply so that it can be understood on a number of levels by those of us who come from backgrounds that are quite different from JEFF's and all our Western colleagues. He was then able to propose commonsense solutions that not only made sense to our fellow Senators, but were also able to obtain the support they needed to be considered and passed by the Senate.

That would have never been possible if not for one of JEFF's great gifts—his ability to find common ground in the midst of some sharp disagreements. He knows how to take the views of all concerned into account and then develop a plan of action taking a variety of viewpoints into consideration. Somehow he had a knack for finding a way to make it all work.

None of that should have surprised us. After all, JEFF has one credential on his resume that not everyone has the persistence and determination to acquire. JEFF was active in

Boy Scouts at a young age and with a lot of hard work and determined effort, he was able to reach the rank of Eagle.

Some people might be surprised that I mention JEFF's Eagle, a great achievement that he was able to attain so many years ago. I have found that the Eagle speaks volumes about the strength of someone's character as they grew up. It proves that they were focused on more important things—like setting goals and then planning a course of action to reach them—one by one. There is no more valuable skill to have in the pursuit of a career and the development of a life than that.

During his service in the Senate, JEFF has compiled a record of which he can be very proud—as proud as the people of New Mexico are proud of him. That is why they kept sending him back to the Senate. It is also why his record of service will continue to receive the notice it deserves as the issues he has worked so hard on will have an impact on the West and the Nation for many years to come.

I don't know what JEFF's plans are for the future, but I feel certain we haven't heard the last from him. I hope he will continue to keep in touch with all of our Western delegations. I am certain we could all use a little New Mexico wisdom from time to time on the issues that come before us that are of such great concern to the West and rural communities all across the country.

Thank you, JEFF, for your service to New Mexico and to the United States. We appreciate your willingness to come to Washington to ensure the concerns of your State were heard and that they received the attention they deserve. Thanks most of all for your friendship over the years. I have learned a great deal from you and about you and I know the lessons I have learned from you about the Senate and our committee structure will continue to make me a more effective advocate for Wyoming and the West. Whatever the next chapter of your life holds in store, I know you will give it your best—just as you have done with every other great adventure in your life.

THURSDAY, *December 27, 2012*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, born in Texas and raised in New Mexico, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN for nearly 30 years has represented the State he has been proud to call home. Law-

yer, advocate, environmental stalwart, these are just a few of the terms that can be used to describe Senator BINGAMAN.

A longtime public servant, Senator BINGAMAN has served his Nation in the Army Reserves, in his State as an attorney general, and, since 1983, has served the people of New Mexico in the U.S. Senate. Along the way, he has earned a reputation for being fair and bipartisan—no small feat in today's polarized Congress.

Senator BINGAMAN has been a fierce advocate for the environment, and has worked hard to expand conservation and end tax breaks for big oil companies. I was proud to work with him on legislation to increase the production of biofuels and to modernize the Federal Government's approach to protecting the environment. As chairman of the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he has worked tirelessly to advance energy independence, an issue so important to many, including those in New Mexico.

A supporter of a comprehensive approach to reforming our immigration system, Senator BINGAMAN has supported a responsible and thoughtful approach to protecting our Nation's borders. Like me, he opposed ill-advised legislation which was regrettably enacted in 2006 to build electronic and other forms of surveillance along every land and maritime border. A Senator of a southern State, Senator BINGAMAN opposed the effort to construct a costly fence along our southern border.

Senator BINGAMAN has been a force here in Washington, but he has never lost sight of the needs of the constituents at home that he represents. He has worked to secure Federal funds for critical needs in New Mexico, and for education development and transportation improvements.

JEFF's moderate temperament has led to many successes both in the Halls of Congress, and in his home State. I wish him and his wife Anne all the best in retirement.

FRIDAY, *December 28, 2012*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the Senators who will not be returning when the 113th Congress commences next month. I have already spoken about Senator Kyl and about Senator Inouye, one of the truly great Americans and giants of this institution. At the time of his death, Senator Inouye was just a few weeks short of cele-

brating 50 years of Senate service. Only Senator Byrd served in this institution longer.

Turnover is a natural occurrence, but it's important to acknowledge that the Senators who are departing have served in the Senate for a combined total of 237 years, or nearly 20 years per Senator, on average. Add Senator Inouye, and the total is close to 300 years. That service represents an enormous amount of expertise on issues ranging from national defense and foreign affairs to the Federal budget to energy policy. The departing Senators will also take with them vast institutional knowledge and bipartisan friendships and working relationships that will leave a void we will need to fill. . . .

Mr. President, JEFF BINGAMAN is another Senator whose quiet demeanor belies his tremendous skill and effectiveness as a legislator. Senator BINGAMAN and I were born 2 days apart October 3 and October 5, 1943, respectively. Both of Senator BINGAMAN's parents were teachers, which may help explain his interest and involvement in educational policy. He graduated from a public school in a small town in New Mexico and then went to Harvard for his bachelor of arts degree and Stanford for his law degree. From 1968 to 1974, he served in the U.S. Army Reserves and in 1978, he was elected attorney general of New Mexico. Senator BINGAMAN was first elected to the Senate in 1982 and then won reelection four times, only once dipping below receiving at least 61 percent of the popular vote.

Senator BINGAMAN has worked on everything from dropout prevention in schools with low student achievement and graduation rates to phasing out the waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits and to eliminate it for people with life-threatening conditions to the establishment of ARPA–E, the Advanced Research Projects Agency at the Department of Energy.

Earlier this month, the Energy Information Administration, EIA, reported that with improved efficiency of energy use and a shift away from the most carbon-intensive fuels, U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide, CO_2, emissions are likely to remain more than 5 percent below their 2005 level through 2040. Emissions from motor gasoline will decline as a result of the adoption of fuel economy standards, biofuel mandates, and shifts in consumer behavior. Emissions from coal used in the generation of electricity will decline as power generation shifts from coal to lower-carbon fuels, including natural gas and renewables. These are all significant

accomplishments, made possible largely by Senator BINGAMAN's steady hand at the helm of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he has helped to shape and pass all of the major energy bills for over the past decade.

In 2009 Senator BINGAMAN shepherded the Omnibus Public Land Management Act to passage. That legislation added wilderness protection to over 2 million acres, designated 1,100 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and added more than 2,800 miles to the national trail system. I believe it was the biggest wilderness bill Congress has ever enacted after the original Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. The epitaph on the stone plaque where the great English architect Sir Christopher Wren is buried reads, "If you seek his monument, look around you." The same could be said for Senator BINGAMAN with regard to the preservation of our natural world.

Two weeks ago, Senator BINGAMAN gave his farewell speech to the Senate and I would like to quote from the beginning of that speech. He remarked,

> In 1981, in his first inaugural address, President Reagan said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."
>
> I came to the Senate 2 years later in 1983 with the firm belief that in most cases his statement was wrong.
>
> I believed then and I believe now that the Federal Government can be a constructive force for good; in protecting and maintaining the civil liberties of all Americans, in maintaining and strengthening our economy, in protecting our environment, and in helping Americans live productive and fulfilling lives.

I agree wholeheartedly with Senator BINGAMAN and am grateful that for the past 30 years in public service, he has lived by those words and beliefs. . . .

Mr. President, these men and women who will be leaving the Senate soon have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve our Nation. We are fortunate that they have chosen to spend significant parts of their lives in public service. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude. Those of us who will be in the Senate next month when the 113th Congress convenes can best honor the legacy of our departing colleagues by reaching across the aisle as they have done so many times to forge bipartisan consensus and solutions to our Nation's most vexing problems. The men and women who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this Congress understand that compromise isn't a dirty word; it is the genius at the heart of our political system. We will miss them.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of our most distinguished Senators as he prepares to retire from this body after five terms. Senator JEFF BINGAMAN has earned the reputation of being a strong and effective leader during his time in the Senate. He has achieved what all of us try to achieve as advocates of our States—getting results in Washington while staying closely connected to our constituents who sent us here to represent them. I have admired his intelligence, courage, pragmatism, and willingness to solve problems with bipartisan solutions.

Senator BINGAMAN and I have worked together on many issues and projects, and I have never questioned his steadfast commitment to do what he believes is right for New Mexico and this country. During his 30 years in the Senate he has worked tirelessly on a number of committees, including the Armed Services Committee, the Finance Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which he currently chairs.

While most of my work with JEFF has been on energy issues, working with Senator BINGAMAN on the Senate HELP Committee was also a great pleasure. He has been an excellent partner, for example, on issues that are important to our American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native constituents, who often live in communities that face multiple challenges. There have been many times in the HELP Committee when it has been necessary for me to explain why a proposed solution won't work in Alaska. As I begin to explain about the Federal trust responsibility, or tribal sovereignty, the lack of health care and basic infrastructure, or how difficult it is to get and keep teachers, nurses, and others in those communities, there have been times when I have seen my colleagues think, here we go again, the "It is different in Alaska" speech. But whether we have been discussing education, health care, job creation, or any one of the innumerable challenges Americans face when they live in Indian Country, JEFF BINGAMAN gets it. He and I have been able to speak with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle with one voice about what will work, what will not work, and why. We can explain the complexities of the Federal trust responsibility and tribal sovereignty as a bipartisan team because whether our constituents live on a reservation in New Mexico or a remote village in Alaska or in one of our larger

cities, the challenges they face are often the same, and what will work in other places in America often won't work in our Native communities. That partnership has been so important in making sure that the good work we are trying to do for all Americans works for America's first peoples in every State.

In addition to our work on HELP, our strongest collaboration has been while working together in our leadership roles on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Senator BINGAMAN has been tireless in ensuring that our Nation has the energy resources it needs to meet our growing demands well into the 21st century. He was a leader in the development of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, both major blueprints for the expansion of all forms of renewable energy, especially biomass, geothermal, and marine hydrokinetic power. I am happy to have had the chance to work closely with Senator BINGAMAN in those efforts. In 2008 and 2009 we also worked to pass a package of major public land legislation that will be a legacy for the Senator for decades to come.

When Senator BINGAMAN announced he was retiring from the Senate, I took note that he vowed to finish out the remainder of Congress with substantive achievements. Since then, he has affirmed this promise and has again driven productive discussions on several issues that will last beyond his time here, such as his efforts to move forward our Nation's program on spent nuclear fuel. The legislation that he introduced is indicative of months of thoughtful and productive discussions aimed to address the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle. I congratulate him on constantly moving the conversation forward and putting a marker out there toward reaching an equitable goal.

Senator BINGAMAN should be very proud of his nearly four decades of public service as New Mexico's attorney general and U.S. Senator. From fighting for our energy future to standing with the people of New Mexico through difficult economic times, Senator BINGAMAN has been a trusted leader for the people of his State. He has been a champion for his constituents, a powerful voice for Native American concerns, and a leader on science research and energy tax policy.

He has been unfailingly and personally considerate to me, and I extend my gratitude for his service and thank him for his gracious aid on issues of concern to me and my home State. I wish him and his family good health and best wishes in the future and great happiness in whatever he and Anne

now decide to do. The Senate has been a better place due to his civilized manner, his wit, and his intelligent solutions for the Nation's problems. We will miss Senator BINGAMAN's presence here in the Senate.

THURSDAY, *February 7, 2013*

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the *Congressional Record* in tribute to the retiring Members of the 112th Congress.

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

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