

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### ARVA "MARIE" JOHNSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor PFC Arva "Marie" Johnson, who recently retired from the United States Capitol Police force after more than 32 years of dedicated service.

Marie Johnson made history on October 15, 1974, when she became the first woman to serve as a uniformed officer of the U.S. Capitol Police. She also holds the distinction of being the first African-American woman hired by the USCP to serve in a law enforcement capacity.

This could not have been an easy achievement. At the time, the force did not have locker room facilities or even uniforms designed for female officers. But Johnson brought real commitment to the job and a positive attitude that helped her earn respect among her colleagues.

When asked about her historic role in paving the way for female and black officers in the U.S. Capitol Police Force, Marie Johnson said "I didn't mean to do it, it just happened."

I believe Marie Johnson is being modest. In fact, she was a founding member of the United States Capitol Black Police Association, an organization that advocates fair hiring practices and performance standards in the Capitol Police Force. The Association seeks to eliminate the barriers that limited the ability of African Americans to pursue careers in law enforcement.

The Capitol Police Force has a very different face now than it did when Marie Johnson joined in 1974. Today there are more than 120 black female officers on the force.

Marie Johnson is a pioneer. Her long career is a testament to her determination and strong work ethic. As a Member of the Senate, I am indebted to those who, like Marie Johnson, put their lives on the line to protect our security here, in this historic building. I commend Marie Johnson on her long and distinguished career. I know my colleagues will join me in wishing her and her family the very best in the years to come.

#### BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, next week, on February 22, while the Senate is on recess, my senior colleague and friend TED KENNEDY will celebrate his 75th birthday, all of this in a year in

which he has already marked an extraordinary milestone—45 years of service to Massachusetts and his country in the U.S. Senate.

Senator KENNEDY began his career setting a high standard when it comes to birthdays. It was when he reached the minimum constitutional age, 30, that he first came to the Senate—1 of just 16 Senators elected at such a tender age from a total of over 1,895 Senators in all of American history. By his 70th birthday he was one of just 28 Senators to ever cast over 10,000 votes.

But what we celebrate along with TED at 75—Democrats and Republicans, all in awe of a lifetime of achievement—is the way in which literally every year since he has been marking the passage of time by passing landmark legislation.

The Boston Globe put it best, writing not long ago that "in actual, measurable impact on the lives of tens of millions of working families, the elderly, and the needy, TED belongs in the same sentence with Franklin Roosevelt."

That sentence is not constructed lightly—it is the measure of a public servant who doesn't know the meaning of the words "you can't pass it"—"it can't happen"—"impossible."

It is the measure of a Senator who—on every issue of importance: health care, war and peace, children, education, civil rights, the rights of women—can always be counted on to be in the lead, challenging on the issues, and fighting for the principles which guide a party and lift up our country.

From his maiden speech in the Senate demanding an end to the filibuster of the original Civil Rights Act, there has not been a significant policy accomplishment in Washington over four decades that hasn't borne his fingerprints and benefited from his legislative skill and leadership. His is the record of progressive politics in our era. On all the great fights that call us to stand up and be counted, from the minimum wage to Robert Bork and Sam Alito, TED didn't just hear the call to duty he led the charge.

Run down the list—the rights of the disabled a most personal cause for TED—who for far too long were left in the shadows or left to fend for themselves, TED KENNEDY wrote every landmark piece of legislation that today prohibits discrimination against those with a disability.

AIDS—when a whole lot of politicians were afraid to say the word, TED passed a bill providing emergency relief to the thirteen cities hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic.

Guaranteed access to health coverage for 25 million Americans who move from one job to another or have pre-existing medical conditions wouldn't have happened without TED KENNEDY.

Without TED KENNEDY, there wouldn't have been a bilingual education in the United States for the 5 million students who today have a brighter future because they are learning English in our schools.

Without TED KENNEDY, we wouldn't have lowered the voting age to 18 and ended the hypocrisy that 18-year-olds were old enough to die for their country in Vietnam but not old enough to vote for its leadership at home.

Without TED KENNEDY, we wouldn't be the world's leader in cancer research and prevention—as personal and meaningful an issue as there is in all the world for TED KENNEDY, not just a father, but a loving father of two cancer survivors.

Without TED KENNEDY, we wouldn't have had title XI which opened the doors of competition and opportunity to a generation of women athletes all across our country.

TED is such an extraordinary public servant not only because he knows who he is, and sticks to his guns, never bending with the political currents, but because he has in his life and in his career proven again and again that progress doesn't happen by accident, it doesn't happen when you stick to the text of the latest opinion poll or the whispers of the morning focus group; it happens when leaders define and fight the fights that need fighting—when public servants of conscience and conviction refuse to take no for an answer. That is why for TED KENNEDY, the "cause" has not just "endured"—but triumphed, again and again.

Agree with him or not, and we all know that TED has never been afraid to be a majority of one. TED is such an extraordinary leader because he has excelled while completing the work in the U.S. Senate that so many others were afraid to begin.

And, in being a standard-bearer for an ideal, an ideology, a view of the world, TED has also become—as Clymer wrote—"not just the leading senator of his time, but one of the greats in its history, wise in the workings of this singular institution, especially its demand to be more than partisan to accomplish much."

His partnerships with his fellow Senators are well-known and oft-recited, testimony to his skill and to his convictions. From Howard Baker, Jacob Javits, and Hugh Scott to ARLEN SPECTER, Dan Quayle, ORRIN HATCH, Alan Simpson, and Nancy Kassebaum and JOHN MCCAIN—TED has never hesitated to cross the aisle to accomplish his goals—to further a common agenda—finding always—that ideologies, however incompatible in the currency of conventional wisdom—can be put aside for a greater good when Senators—however different—work in good faith to make their country a better place, to improve the lives of their fellow Americans.

TED has always believed you can put aside partisanship—overcome division—and that faith in the ability to come together has mattered most in some of the most trying and divisive times our Nation has endured.

I don't just say this; I have lived it. Through the eyes of an activist, there is often a shocking and gaping gap between those in politics who talk the

talk and those who walk the walk. It has been that way on Iraq; it was that way in the days of Vietnam. But I remember to this day that more than 35 years ago, after I had committed my life to organizing my fellow veterans to end the war, too few of our leaders were willing to listen, and even fewer were willing to stand with those Vietnam veterans who were standing up against the war. April, 1971—thousands upon thousands of veterans gathered on the Mall. The Nixon White House spread rumors that the veterans would riot and turn violent. The administration even tried to kick us off The Mall. And on that difficult night, when we didn't know if we were going to jail or we were going to demonstrate as we had come here to do, TED KENNEDY was among the brave few Senators who walked down from his office to sit and talk and listen to veterans who describe the realities they had found in Vietnam and why that war had to end.

He reached out and demonstrated—in his actions as well as his words—that we had a right to tell truths many would have preferred we left unspoken, government had a responsibility to listen.

He is listening still—to the voices his conscience tells him must never be ignored.

He hears of children who go through their early years without health care and come to school unable to learn. And he has made their care his crusade. And so millions more children see a doctor today because of TED KENNEDY—and millions more will before he is done.

He hears of workers punching a time clock—doing backbreaking work over the course of a lifetime. And he has made their economic security his agenda. And so millions of workers have seen wages increased over partisan objections, seen pensions protected when others said leave it to the market, seen Social Security protected while others said privatize it, and seen a safe workplace and the right to organize put back on the Nation's agenda—and these issues will again and again be advanced by TED KENNEDY.

That is the drive—the passion—the special commitment we celebrate today—not a new ideology or a new age vision, but an age old belief that Americans have a responsibility to each other—that America is still in the process of becoming—and that we are privileged to serve here to make that dream real for all Americans.

TED KENNEDY is the most prolific legislator in American history, but he is something more. Robert Kennedy once said the most meaningful word in all the English language is "citizen." No one has lived out the meaning of that most meaningful word more than his younger brother.

For that and so much more that makes this 75th birthday special, we honor our friend, our colleague, and a great citizen, TED KENNEDY.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANK AND BETHINE CHURCH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when I first came to the Senate, I had the great privilege of serving with Senator Frank Church of Idaho. Marcelle and I were also privileged to spend time with both Frank and his wonderful wife Bethine. The two of them were extraordinarily helpful to this 34-year-old Senator from Vermont.

Frank Church was a Senator in the very best sense of the word. He thought of the Senate as a place where one should, first and foremost, stand for our country and make it a better place. Certainly his brilliance, conscience, and patriotism made his service here one that benefited not only the Senate, but the Nation.

Last year, the Idaho Statesman published an article that so reflected Bethine Church that I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD so that those in the Senate who served with Senator Church and knew him and Bethine, as well as those who did not have the opportunity to know them, can have this glimpse into their lives.

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

[From the IdahoStatesman.com, Oct. 13, 2006]

Bethine Church is the widow of four-term U.S. Sen. Frank Church. Get a narrated tour of her life and times as she describes collected photographs from the couple's public and private lives. See photos of Castro, Brando, Jackie Kennedy and more.

In a game room in Boise's East End, the walls really do talk.

Bethine Church, the widow of four-term U.S. Sen. Frank Church, has collected photographs from the couple's public and private lives. Every image has a story—of world travel on behalf of the government, of encounters with celebrities, of heads of state and high political drama, of love and loss and family, of home in the Idaho mountains.

Frank Church was the most influential Idaho politician ever. He served 24 years in the U.S. Senate, the lone Idaho Democrat to win more than one term. He chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In 1976 he was a serious candidate for president, looking briefly like the only man able to deny Jimmy Carter the Democratic nomination. He helped pass the Wilderness Act in 1964. He was an early critic of the Vietnam War, and investigated CIA and FBI abuses, forcing reforms that some now question in the post-9/11 era.

I'd seen the pictures over the years, when Church hosted events for Democratic luminaries like Tipper Gore. The walls are chockablock with presidents (FDR, JFK and LBJ), prime ministers (Golda Meir of Israel), kings (Juan Carlos of Spain), dictators (Fidel Castro of Cuba and Deng Xiaoping of China) and celebrities (Jimmy Durante, Marlon Brando, John Wayne). There are family snaps of the Robinson Bar Ranch, the Middle Fork Salmon River and the grand home at 109 W. Idaho St., where Bethine lived when her father, Chase Clark, was governor in the 1940s.

But I hadn't heard her inimitable narration. I finally got the chance when my editor asked me to gather string for an obituary on the granddame of Idaho politics. Church, 83, happily gave the E Ticket tour to me and

photographer Darin Oswald. No waiting lines, but the ride took four hours.

Several days later, she called, saying, "I'd so like to see what you're up to. Do we really have to wait until I'm dead?" My editors chewed on that, deciding she was right: There was no good reason to delay. Today, at IdahoStatesman.com, Church brings the pictures to life in an audio-visual presentation designed by Oswald's colleague, Chris Butler. We chose today because at 11:45 a.m., the U.S. Forest Service is holding a renaming ceremony at the Galena Overlook in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The viewpoint is one of Idaho's great vistas. From today on, it will honor Bethine and Frank Church, both of whom had the vision to protect the Sawtooths.

Driving to Robinson Bar over Galena Summit more than 30 years ago, the Churches looked down on a subdivision. "This can't happen," said Sen. Church. Working with his Republican colleagues, Sen. Len Jordan and Reps. Jim McClure and Orval Hansen, Church got the bill creating the Sawtooth National Recreation Area through Congress in 1972. Had they failed, the Sawtooth valley would be dotted with vacation mansions.

Frank Church has been out of office 25 years, dead 22. Bethine contemplated suicide while watching him die of cancer, but he told her she had responsibilities. He was right. She founded the Sawtooth Society, which has led private conservation efforts in the SNRA; her support of Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, has aided his push to expand SNRA wilderness into the Boulder and White Cloud mountains; she helped create the Frank Church Institute at BSU that supports a scholar and hosts a world-class annual conference.

Church took a fall recently that put her in the hospital one night. But she still entertains, negotiating her kitchen in a cane and sitting on a step stool to cook. She lustily talks of a life devoted to making Idaho and the world better.

Bethine grew up in Mackay and Idaho Falls, where her lawyer father represented copper mining companies and criminal defendants.

From her parents she learned a novel way of speaking, including her mother's strongest curse, "It just freezes my preserves," and her Pop's putdown, "He's as worthless as teats on a boar."

From there she went to the salons of Washington, D.C., and the far reaches of the globe. But they didn't take the Idaho out of Bethine. After a reception for French President Charles De Gaulle, the Churches gathered at the home of a Senate colleague, Joe Clark, with Adlai Stevenson, the U.N. Ambassador, a former governor and the Democratic presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956.

Stevenson's intellectual heft was legend; he was mocked by Richard Nixon as an "egg-head," and voters twice chose Dwight Eisenhower. But Bethine showed no reluctance to say what was on her champagne-sparkled mind: She discussed the relative preponderance of outhouses in Idaho and West Virginia. "I guess I sounded like I sound now," she said, laughing. "I said exactly what came into my head and somehow Frank survived it."

Bethine Church was a true partner to her politician husband, not simply a prop. She has a knack for remembering names, something she learned from her dad. "Pop taught me that everybody, from the waitress to the people working in the kitchen, is as important as the people sitting on the dais."

She often prompted the senator's memory, and was his most valued confidant. Had Church won his last-minute race for president in 1976 in the wake of Watergate, Bethine would have been an involved First