

took care of the military. He took care of upgrading the military bases because, of course, he served in the military. And he wanted more than anything for our military people to have the quality of life they deserved. So I see him as someone who has been what people say is so rare in this city, and that is a true friend.

It has been mentioned a couple of times that he has a gruff exterior. When I see pictures of him in the newspaper and he is looking like this, it is not the TED STEVENS we know. It is not the person who has endeared himself to our colleagues for years and years and years in the Senate. That is his manner, but I always said behind his back: He is all bark and no bite. He is the most loyal friend and the person you could go to when you needed advice, as I know his great colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, has done many times, as have I, but also when you needed help.

I, too, have traveled with TED STEVENS and DANNY INOUE because I was fortunate enough, with TED's help, to get on the Defense Appropriations Committee. So we went to the garden spots of the world such as Bosnia, when the Serbs had been shooting from the hills, and when we went undercover with flight jackets, undercover of delivering 2,000 pounds of peas to the many refugees who were in Bosnia at the time. We came into the Sarajevo airport with our helmets on and our flight jackets. Of course, it was a war-torn city. We saw later, when we went there, the former Olympic fields that were burial grounds because they had no place else to put the people who had died in these terrible, tragic circumstances in Bosnia.

I went with TED STEVENS and DANNY INOUE to Saudi Arabia where I was told later that it was actually discouraged that a woman would be in a delegation. But TED STEVENS said: No way was there ever going to be discrimination against a Senator. I was a part of that delegation. I went to our airbase there. I went and met with everyone we met with as a delegation. I spoke in my turn, just as every member of our delegation did, because TED STEVENS was always going to stand up for the right of every Senator to be a part of a foreign delegation.

I went to the farm bureau air show with TED STEVENS. There is nothing more joyous than TED STEVENS when he is in an air museum or at an air show. He is an aviator to his core. He asked all the questions. He knew most of the answers already because he knows airplanes and he knows aviation.

I know what this man has been through for the last few months. I know the toll it takes on himself and his family.

I am proud to stand with TED STEVENS because I value his friendship and all he has done for me in my term in the Senate and what he has done for Texas every time I have needed for Texas to be taken care of.

I will say two things in conclusion about TED STEVENS. His country has never called that he has not answered the call—from the military, to being in the Eisenhower administration, to fighting for Alaska to be a State, and then fighting to make Alaska a great State. It is a great State.

It would not be the State it is without your leadership, TED.

But I want to say the most important thing I think you could say about anyone you know; that is, those who know him best love him most.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for morning business be extended until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Hawaii.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

##### TED STEVENS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to pay honor to Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska. While our country may not realize this, TED has been a great advocate on a number of important issues for our country. Reminding our country of its responsibility to its indigenous people has been one of the major causes that TED STEVENS has pursued and advanced. It has been a delight to work with him to expand opportunities and help our indigenous peoples of the noncontiguous States of Alaska and Hawaii, as well as those across the country.

We have worked well together to improve the lives of Federal employees. We tried hard this Congress to enact meaningful reforms on telework opportunities in the Federal Government and, most importantly, to provide retirement equity to Federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories by extending locality pay to those areas. Your leadership on those issues was invaluable to our efforts to move the bills forward. Thank you for your efforts to expand opportunities for Federal employees.

Also, I want to mention something that is probably an unknown part of history, and that is a number of years ago I discovered that since 1965 the model of the Statue of Freedom was in storage at the Smithsonian. I worked to try to bring that statute here to the Capitol, and I was having a hard time with that until TED STEVENS joined me. With his help we were able to move that statue from storage in the Smithsonian to the Capitol.

It was, as you may now know, the model which was erected in the Russell rotunda. I am pleased to say that on

December 2, 2008, the new Capitol Visitor Center will be dedicated and that Statue of Freedom will be placed between the two escalators that will lead to the Capitol. For me and for TED STEVENS, this symbolizes that freedom is returning to the Capitol of the United States. And on December 2, 2008, the Center will be open and the Statue of Freedom will be an eminent part of the Visitor Center.

I thank TED STEVENS for all the help that he has given us in Hawaii and other States. He has brought strength and passion to the Senate and has been a constant presence in this institution. And for Millie and me, TED, I want to say aloha, and a warm aloha and mahalo nui loa to you for all the friendship that we have had and continue to have. I want to say God bless you and Catherine and your family in the years ahead.

Mahalo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I think the length of my service is a blink of the eye compared to those who have spoken before. And as I stand here, I cannot tell you whether it is going to be two blinks.

But I was on the CODEL with the Senator from Washington. We were in China with Senator STEVENS, and I would like to offer some insight, if I can, as to the question raised by my colleague from Kansas as to what makes TED STEVENS tick.

When we were in China, Senator STEVENS was treated as a hero. And he is a hero because of his service in World War II. He flew under General Chennault and went over, I think it was, the China-India-Burma bump. He landed in places in China to refurbish supplies, ammunition, I think, bring in intelligence sources, as described to me, where landing fields were cut out. There may have been a foot on one side and a foot on the other side, and this young guy was flying in there because he loved his country.

When we talk about TED STEVENS and his service to our country—so many talk about 40 years in the Senate—as I reflected on who that young guy was, flying in there with absolute fearlessness, with courage, with love of country, he is the same guy. He is the same guy. That is what he has given to this country his entire adult life, and it has been given in great service to this country. I think that is pretty special.

He has the veneer of a tough guy. And TED STEVENS can be tough. There is no question about that. But those of us who know him also see the love, the love that is in his heart, reflected in love of country, but love of family, love for his magnificent wife, love for his daughter. You see the gleam in his eye anytime he talks about her or she is in his presence. We see the love he has for this body, the love he has for his colleagues, even, by the way, for those with whom he disagrees. I have not been on the side of ANWR with my colleague from Alaska. But if you simply