Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, a large number of very special and extraordinary individuals will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session, many friends and many people I have ad

mi red for a number of years and had the privilege I wished to speak specifically to one, and that is my colleague from New Hampshire, John SUNUNU.

John is the youngest Member of the Senate, the only young Member, and he is still the youngest Member after 6 years, but he is one of the most accomplished and capable people in the Senate, one of the brightest, as we all know, and also one of the people who brings the most common sense to issues. Time and time again, I would come to the floor, and this was throughout his term but especially during the last few months when he was in a very challenging election, and there is no question that were very difficult political votes, votes which, when you cast those votes, most people knew they were not going to be understood and, in many instances, they were going to be misinterpreted or misrepresentation but votes which were necessary to cast in order to preserve especially the fiscal responsibility of this Government. John SUNUNU never backed away from any of those votes. He always cast the difficult vote, knowing in many instances that politically it was going to be characterized in a way which might hurt him; votes, the basic purpose of which, in most instances, were to protect the taxpayer, keep the size of Government under control, and be a force for a better country and for more individual rights. He understands as well as anyone in this body the basic values of making Government live within its means, of having a government which people can afford but is still compassionate and accomplishes the goals of delivering adequate services. He has worked very hard in order to pursue those goals.

He also brought to the body a unique sense of humor, New Hampshire humor, quiet, witty, and comfortable with himself but also willing to make fun of himself, and an essential common sense, which I like to think is characteristic of New Hampshire, and also an intensely public service for the purposes of public service—the fact that he was here not to benefit himself in any way but simply to do what he felt was right in order to make our Nation better and make New Hampshire better. He served New Hampshire for 12 years, both in Congress and in the Senate.

As I mentioned, he is the youngest Member of the Senate and his service is hardly completed, I hope. His opportunities are virtually limitless because he has talent and capability, intelligence, drive, the personality to pretty much do whatever he wants as he moves forward.

He also has one other resource which is very special and that is his wife and family. Kitty is an exceptional individual. Kathy and I have come to enjoy not only working with John and Kitty but getting to know them as friends, as fellow travelers. John has been through many years being a political wife, and she has put up with a lot of ups and downs. She and Kitty naturally bonded, as they understood the importance of what we do. Kitty is an individual who brings a smile whenever you see her because she is a person filled with good will to everyone. Their children, Grace and Charlie, John Hayes, great kids, very enthusiastic people, a wonderful family. That family is a tremendous support to John, and he is a tremendous support to them. That unit, as it moves forward, will always be successful.

It is obviously with great regret that I look on John's leaving the Senate. His talent will be a loss, and it will be a loss to the body. He is a special individual who had a special group of skills that uniquely worked for the benefit of New Hampshire and the people of New Hampshire. I hope he will stay engaged.

Kathy and I wish him and Kitty and their children the best of luck as they go forward and that the road always rises to meet them.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended to 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we do not intend to wait until the new Congress convenes in January to begin work on health care reform legislation. The fact is, health care reform was one of the signature changes promised by President-elect Barack Obama during the campaign. This legislation is too important and too urgent to put off until tomorrow, to wait until the new President and the new Congress are sworn in.

I applaud both Senator Baucus, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Senator Kennedy, Chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for plunging right into the ambitious and historic task of creating a comprehensive health care reform bill.