

cared most deeply about the people of Maine. She has gone through great efforts over the years to talk to her constituents directly. She once said:

I've made main street tours across this state a hallmark of my tenure in public office. They are like my secret poll.

It is through these tours that OLYMPIA decides which problems to fix—whether it was storm relief after the 1998 ice storm, the fight I already mentioned to keep Maine's military facilities open, or reauthorization of the Northeast Dairy Compact on behalf of Maine's dairy farmers.

Of course, this isn't to downplay OLYMPIA's penchant for independence or for joining gangs. Senator SNOWE's maternal grandparents immigrated to the United States from Sparta, which may help explain her fighting spirit. Just like the Spartan King Leonidas, she has never been afraid of a fight—even with members of her own party.

She headed the Centrist Coalition with Senator Breaux. She cochaired the Common Ground Coalition with Senator LANDRIEU. In 1999 she was one of five Republicans to vote to acquit President Clinton in both articles of impeachment. And in 2005 she joined the bipartisan Gang of 14, which helped defuse an earlier dispute about threats to change the Senate rules.

Yet what many fail to mention is that despite her vaunted independence, OLYMPIA has always been a very proud Republican. She recently said:

We believe as Republicans that the individual is more important than the state. We believe that the great days of our past can be a stepping stone to an even greater future. We believe a job is preferential to a handout and independence is better than dependence. We believe that the private sector is more productive than big government will ever be.

When it comes to a balanced budget—a top priority for the party—Senator SNOWE has been a true leader. She has been a long-time supporter of a balanced budget amendment. As far back as 1993, when she was still serving in the House, she was one of four initial sponsors of the legislation that would have mandated a balanced budget. One of her first acts as a Senator was to deliver a speech before a Senate committee in support of a balanced budget amendment.

OLYMPIA's many accomplishments have attracted broad notice outside of Washington. In 2004 *Forbes* named her "one of 100 most powerful women in the world," rating her even more influential than J.K. Rowling or Oprah. In 2006 *Time* named her one of the "ten best senators," noting that she is "in the center of every policy debate in Washington."

I do not think anything compares with the honor that was bestowed on Senator SNOWE by the townspeople of Bethel, ME, who, in 1999, created the "Olympia SnowWoman," a 122-foot tall snowman that still ranks as the tallest snowman—or woman—ever built. It required 13 million pounds of snow, took more than 1 month to build, wore a 100-

foot-long scarf, had two entire 27-foot evergreen trees for arms, and required 16 pairs of skis for eyelashes.

"It's just my luck," Senator SNOWE said of the monument, "I'd have a world record breaking monument named after me, and it will be gone by summer."

OLYMPIA, you have had a truly remarkable career. We thank you for your service to this Chamber and most especially to the people of the great State of Maine. We wish you all the best in the next phase of your life and, as you think of what to put in your memoir, I would only ask one thing: Please, go easy on us.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Madam President, I commend the minority leader for his nice tribute to Senator SNOWE.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Madam President, I rise to give my closing floor speech for this session of the Senate.

From the date of my swearing in on February 4, 2010, until the last day I serve in this great Chamber, which is 1 month shy of 3 years serving, I still say and believe that, aside from my marriage to my wife Gail of 26 years and the birth of my two children, Ayla and Arianna, serving in the greatest deliberative body for the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts, in the people's seat, has been the greatest honor I ever had in my life. I thank the people of Massachusetts for that opportunity. To think that someone such as myself, whose parents were married and divorced 4 times each, who lived in 17 houses by the time he was 18 and was subjected to various forms of abuse growing up, still has the honor to serve in one of the greatest deliberative bodies, as I said, in the world is something I will not soon forget.

To the young people sitting here and who may be watching, take it from me that in this country, even when it seems that you are fighting against all odds, anything is possible for you. There are no obstacles that cannot be overcome so do not give up and always follow your dreams.

As I have said before, people have no business in politics unless they respect the judgment of the voters. If you run for office, you have to be able to take victory or defeat in a gracious manner. I do respect the judgment of the voters. I accept their decision in this election with the same attitude and sense of appreciation I held when I arrived in this Chamber almost 3 years ago.

When I was sworn in, I was the 1,914th Senator accepting the oath of office by signing the book right up at the clerk's table. There were many Senators who served before me and there will be many Senators who serve after my service is over. That my name is listed amongst them is very humbling.

To all the people of Massachusetts, I greatly appreciate the confidence you placed in me for the past 3 years in allowing me to represent them in the Senate. To my colleagues, I thank them for the courtesy and friendship they afforded me during my time here. When I arrived, I promised I would read the bills, see how they affected Massachusetts, see how they affected our country, our debt and our deficit and I would vote in an independent manner based on the merits of that issue rather than political partisan politics. I am proud I did keep that promise to be independent. I am proud my voting record has identified me as the second most bipartisan Senator in the Senate, as referenced by Congressional Quarterly, and that I was named as the least partisan Senator in the Senate by *Washingtonian* magazine.

It was that independent and bipartisan approach that provided me with an opportunity to stand with the President at the White House on three separate occasions in the past 2 years to see bills I had either sponsored or played a key role in securing their passage signed into law. I was honored to work with my colleagues—many who are here today and many who are listening—on both sides of the aisle on legislation that was signed into law to move our country forward, including the STOCK Act to ban insider trading by Members of Congress—I know the Presiding Officer played a key role in that as well—the hire a hero veterans bill to help our veterans who are fighting for jobs actually have opportunities to be hired by employers who are looking for those heroes; the crowdfunding legislation which will help young entrepreneurs get access to new capital and create jobs, something I hope the SEC will immediately come up with a rule on so these people can start creating jobs and raising money; legislation to reform Wall Street, where I was the deciding vote to strengthen our country's financial system; legislation to eliminate an onerous 3-percent withholding tax; eliminating a stealth tax that would have affected government contractors—that is also gone; legislation to ensure our fallen heroes receive the dignity and respect they deserve at the Arlington National Cemetery, that