

so hard on this bill. We appreciate the new chair of the Appropriations Committee and the good work she did; the work done by the New York delegation, led by Senator SCHUMER; and the work done by the New Jersey delegation. This is extremely fine legislation. I really appreciate all their hard work, and the cooperation we got from the Republicans was wonderful.

The people in New England suffered a tremendous blow caused by nature. As has happened during the entire history of this country when that sort of devastation has occurred, Congress stepped in to do something to help the beleaguered people. In this case, it is New York, New Jersey, and some other States, but they were the ones hit the hardest. Even now, hundreds of thousands of people are without homes, so I hope the House takes this up very quickly.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now move to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments on what has transpired today on the floor of the Senate.

First, some enormously important work has been done in regard to addressing the disaster caused by Hurricane Sandy. I know that in a number of States unprecedented devastation has occurred, and we should respond extremely quickly—more quickly than we have. I hope the House will immediately take up this package. Certainly, disaster relief delayed is disaster relief denied. So I hope the House will indeed move extremely quickly to address the devastation throughout the Northeast.

I also wanted to note that tonight 55 Senators stood and said: As we assist the victims of Hurricane Sandy, we should also assist the victims of unprecedented drought and fires that devastated much of our country this last summer.

How is it, we might wonder, that we had devastating fires in July and August and into September and devastating drought and we still haven't approved the disaster assistance? I must say it is 100 percent unacceptable.

If you lost your ranch in a fire, if you lost your fencing, if you lost your corn,

if you lost your livestock, and a program that would have helped that has always been in place for disaster assistance wasn't reauthorized, then you have been stranded since June or July or August. Perhaps in that interim you have lost your farm, perhaps you have lost your ranch, perhaps you have mortgaged everything to hold on. Yet here is the Senate saying: Hey, it is OK that we are not helping you now because, you know what. We are going to help you in the farm bill.

Where is the farm bill? It is not on the President's desk. It is not en route to the President's desk. It has not even been brought up on the floor of the House. A bipartisan group of Senators in this body approved the farm bill and had the disaster relief for our ranchers and farmers in it and sent it over to the House, and it has never been discussed. That is completely unacceptable. It is a moral failure to leave those struck by disaster stranded.

Tonight 55 Senators agreed that it is unacceptable. We should help right now. But you know what. Under the budget point of order that was put forward, you needed 60 votes. We needed 60 votes tonight to help our ranchers and farmers. We only had 55.

Here is the interesting point. This budget point of order is supposed to be about saving money, but this body already approved all of those disaster relief programs in the farm bill, and when that farm bill is done, we are assured tonight that these provisions will be maintained, that we will assist our ranchers and farmers. Thus, we will not save a dime. There is not a dime saved because the same program will eventually be approved. But the relief will be coming so late to the victims of the drought and the victims of the fire who lost their livestock and their forage and their fences.

Tonight, what happened for those 40 who voted against helping our ranchers and farmers is they did not save a penny, but they did enormous damage to citizens across this country, ranchers and farmers who were counting on us.

I rise to say that I deeply regret the Senate's decision tonight. I deeply regret the 40 votes against our ranchers and farmers. I deeply regret that 40 said: Even though it will not save a dime, we are going to hold them hostage to the farm bill, to its eventual passage someday. Holding people hostage who have been victims of disaster is morally unacceptable.

Again, I thank the 55 tonight who voted on the bipartisan amendment. My partner on the Republican side of the aisle, Senator BLUNT, should be profoundly complimented for stepping in to help carry this charge. I was pleased to be his partner. I was pleased to be a partner with Senator STABENOW, chair of the Agriculture Committee, who worked closely with us to arrange for this Senate amendment to be possible tonight, to be able to have this vote. I thank her, and I thank Sen-

ator BLUNT. I thank the other Senate cosponsors, and I thank everyone who voted tonight to say that disaster relief should no longer be delayed for the victims of the fires and droughts of the summer of 2012.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 (Mr. MERKLEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUYE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to bid "Aloha" to an extraordinary colleague and a dear friend, Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

I want to first and foremost offer my most sincere condolences to Dan's exceptional wife, Irene, who has been a pillar of unending strength and courage, as well as Ken and Jennifer, both of whom he spoke of with boundless love, and of course, his entire family, as our hearts go out to them during this most difficult time.

On an occasion of such a large and historic loss, finding the appropriate words to capture the immense depth and breadth of this moment, as well as the magnitude of its meaning, represents the most daunting of challenges. As Dan was the most senior member of this esteemed Chamber, and the second longest serving Senator in its history, every Senator here never known this institution without him—and so it is difficult to comprehend that these hallowed halls will never again witness his presence or hear his deliberative, compassionate, and measured approach.

Like all my colleagues, I profoundly admired Dan for his devotion to this country and the steadfast, irrepressible determination that he exhibited day in and day out, as he sought to better our Nation not only for his constituents in his beloved home State of Hawaii, but for all who called America home. But that is who Dan was, and throughout his remarkable life, he placed the highest of premiums on service above self.

He did on the shores of Honolulu when, having heard the clarion call of sirens ringing out across the island as Japanese planes attacked American naval forces at Pearl Harbor, he rushed toward the battle to volunteer as a Red Cross medic. He did on the battlefields in Italy during the Second World War, when having taken sniper fire and enduring a gruesome explosion that would later claim his right arm, he refused to evacuate, pressing forward to neutralize enemy positions so that he could lead his men to safe ground—an act of heroism and valor which later rightfully earned him the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor.