

kept Alaskans first and foremost in all of his work in the Senate.

I have had the privilege of serving with MARK on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and have seen firsthand how hard he has worked on behalf of Alaska's veterans. He has been tenacious in working to see that Alaska's veterans and Natives have access to health care—and creatively, worked to see that veterans can access the tribal health care delivery system. As he has put it, if the clinics are there for some, why not have them be available to all?

This is the kind of commonsense solution that is a hallmark of his time in the Senate.

I will miss his good humor and his hard work. It is been a pleasure serving with MARK and I wish him and his family all the best in their next chapter.

Aloha MARK and a hui hou, "until we meet again."

JOHN WALSH

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague, Senator JOHN WALSH of Montana. While his Senate career is shorter than any of us would have hoped, the institution is better for his service and he will be missed.

His road to this body is different than most anyone else. He grew up in Butte, MT, close enough to a copper mine that his house would shake when the dynamite went off. His dreams were modest—get an education, find a job, and do some fishing.

But life often takes unexpected turns. He enrolled in the Montana National Guard in order to pursue those modest dreams, and found a home in the Guard. He rose to serve as Adjutant General of the Montana National Guard. In this capacity he commanded troops in Iraq in 2004 and 2005. He earned the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit Award, and Combat Infantry Badge for his efforts leading over 700 young men and women. This military experience is one that he carries with him in ways that most of us will never know.

After retiring from the National Guard in 2012 he served as Montana's Lieutenant Governor, and currently, as a Senator. He is the first Iraq war combat veteran to serve in the Senate.

His experience growing up in a working-class family, serving in the military, and as a public servant in elected office have made him a valuable Member of this body.

His advocacy for Montana, and for our servicemembers and veterans, and his perspective on national security matters—particularly reigning in the National Security Agency—have been valuable to our caucus. I know that he will carry these priorities forward in whatever endeavor he pursues next.

I am proud to have to served as his colleague in the Senate. Aloha JOHN, and a hui hou, "until we meet again," to you, your wife Janet, and your family.

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate and thank the 13 outgoing Senators who have worked tirelessly to

represent their home States in the Senate: Senator MARK BEGICH, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS, Senator TOM COBURN, Senator KAY HAGAN, Senator TOM HARKIN, Senator MIKE JOHANNIS, Senator TIM JOHNSON, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, Senator CARL LEVIN, Senator MARK PRYOR, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, Senator MARK UDALL, and Senator JOHN WALSH.

I have worked side by side with these men and women for years—some for decades—and witnessed firsthand their extraordinary commitment to public service and the people they so proudly represent.

Even when we didn't see eye to eye on every issue, I always deeply respected and admired their service to our Nation and their dedication to fight for what they believe in.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside each and every one of these extraordinary colleagues. I will miss their leadership and their friendship, and I wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter. •

TRIBUTE TO HAROON KHAN

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and to extend my thanks and appreciation to Haroon Azam Khan.

For almost two decades, I have been truly fortunate to have had Haroon on my side.

Haroon's personal story is uniquely American. While his parents Mohammad Azam and Anjum Khan immigrated to the United States in the 1960's, the first members of Haroon's family arrived in the United States in 1906 and settled in Willows, CA.

Haroon's interest in government started early, first as an intern in the district office of my friend and former colleague Congressman Bob Matsui and then as an intern in The White House.

After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, Haroon joined my first Senate campaign and then worked with me as my finance and political director on each of my reelection efforts. He also worked with my colleagues Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and Senator Chris Dodd in the same capacity.

Eventually, after working in the private sector, I invited Haroon to work for me as deputy staff director of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

It has been a pleasure to watch Haroon grow both personally and professionally, and it is with sincere gratitude that I would like to thank Haroon for his years of dedicated friendship, counsel and support.

TRIBUTE TO CHIP ROY

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a fearless leader, and one I am blessed to call a friend. Chip Roy. Chip reluctantly agreed to travel from Texas to Washington—frequently leaving his beautiful wife Carrah and his

two precious children, Charlie and Virginia—to help build and lead one of the most talented and principled conservative teams on Capitol Hill, and to Make D.C. Listen. He did. He will continue to lead in Texas, now just from a different front.

My good friends in Texas, especially newly elected Attorney General Paxton and Governor Abbott, are fortunate to have such a principled fighter for liberty assuming the role as First Assistant to the Attorney General. I look forward to many opportunities to continue working side-by-side to champion the rights of Texans, and all Americans.

Chip is a man of conviction. His passion is matched only by his unceasing faith. I am confident he will continue to shine a light on the truth and to serve the Great State of Texas and this Nation with the utmost dedication to the Constitution and to the Lord Almighty.

I will always be grateful for the many days—and nights—Chip dedicated to critical fights here in the Senate, from protecting citizens' Second Amendment rights, to securing our borders, to leading a national debate on the harms of Obamacare. Chip knows DC well, but he knows the American people better, and his courage to help change the way Washington does business to put our fellow Texans and Americans first is a rare gift that will continue to live on.

This is simply the beginning, as we both continue to battle to protect our God-given rights, to secure a future filled with opportunity for our beloved children, and to keep America the land of the free. May we continue to make Texas a beacon of liberty.

Chip, thank you for your tireless service, especially in the wake of your courageous battle against cancer. Thank you for your uncompromising principles. Thank you for your continued friendship. For, as Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Your leadership has, and will continue to, make all who are privileged to know you stronger. May God continue to bless you, and the Great State of Texas.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARIA HARRISON

• Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, Maria Harrison reported for her first day of work with the Federal Aviation Administration on Monday, June 18, 1973. On January 3, 2015, she will retire from the U.S. Department of Transportation after 41 years and 6 months of service to our country as a Federal employee. Except for 10 months at the Small Business Administration, she spent her career in the transportation field:

Federal Aviation Administration, 6/18/1973 to 07/30/1977; Small Business Administration, 07/31/1977 to 05/20/1978; Department of Transportation/OST, 05/21/