

attacks on women's health and a woman's right to privacy. Her efforts led to the passage of the Violence Against Women Act that protects women from domestic and sexual abuse.

She worked closely with then-Senator JOE BIDEN to pass that landmark bill. After she announced her retirement, the Vice President said: "You always knew in the Senate if you had BARBARA on your side, you didn't need much more."

Well, I have been lucky to have BARBARA by my side for the past 24 years.

She has been a strong advocate for the people of California, and I am grateful to have served with her.

I am also grateful for the friendship we have shared over the years.

BARBARA and her husband, Stewart, are two of the kindest, most caring people I have had the pleasure of knowing. Their marriage of more than 50 years has brought them considerable joy. Together they raised two wonderful children and are now blessed with four grandchildren.

I am sure she is looking forward to spending more time with them.

While she may be retiring from the Senate, the passion BARBARA displayed for public service will not end.

I know she will continue to advocate and remain a powerful voice for the causes she championed here in the United States Senate.

I look forward to seeing what she is able to accomplish in the next phase of her life and offer her best wishes in a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Senator BARBARA BOXER, who has served her State and country with boundless energy, enthusiasm, and exuberance.

Senator BOXER's 24 years in the Senate are only part of her legacy of leadership and accomplishments. Previously, she served for 10 years in the House of Representatives for California's Sixth Congressional District and before that as the first woman president of the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

That remarkable record of service includes another record. In her reelection in 2004, Senator BOXER received nearly 7 million votes, the most in Senate history until that time and a mark that stood for 8 years.

During her service in the Senate, Senator BOXER has established herself as a champion of the environment, infrastructure, and medical research. Along with Senator INHOFE, she authored a 5-year transportation bill that many thought was an impossible task in a gridlocked Senate. But she worked across the aisle and did it. The United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act she authored in 2012 reaffirmed the special relationship between our two countries and is another of Senator BOXER's accomplishments.

It has been especially rewarding to work with her on legislation to better

protect women from violence, in our country and around the world.

In her first campaign for Congress in 1982, she ran under the slogan, "Barbara Boxer Gives a Damn." She always has and always will. It is a pleasure to thank Senator BARBARA BOXER for her years of service and to wish her and her husband, Stewart, many more years of good health and great happiness.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Maine and New Hampshire share a border, a history, and an invigorating climate. When KELLY AYOTTE came to the Senate 6 years ago, I immediately saw in her those traits shared by the people of our two States: a strong work ethic, a respect for tradition balanced by a spirit of innovation, and fiscal prudence always tempered by compassion.

During those years, I came to know Senator AYOTTE as a diligent, energetic, and committed public servant.

She brought with her to the Senate a remarkable record of public service. As her State's attorney general, she fought hard to protect the people of New Hampshire and the environment that is so crucial to their way of life.

It has been rewarding to work with her on such bipartisan efforts as the Terrorist Firearms Prevention Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and addressing the opioid addiction crisis confronting our States. From her support for land conservation to advancing biomass energy, she has been a strong leader in the wise use of natural resources and their role in growing the economy.

Coming from a military family, she has demonstrated her respect for our men and women in uniform as a member of the Armed Services Committee and is recognized as a leading voice on national security issues and the well-being of our veterans. We have joined together on many occasions to advocate for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that is so important to our Nation's defense and to the dedicated men and women of our two States who work there.

It has been an honor to serve with KELLY AYOTTE in the United States Senate, and the American people are better off for her service. I wish KELLY and her wonderful family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING SERGEANT STEVEN C. OWEN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sergeant Steven C. Owen, a beloved husband and father who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on October 5, 2016.

Sergeant Owen was born in Encino, CA, and proudly joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department almost three decades ago. He spent most of his career at the Lancaster Sheriff's station, patrolling the streets of his Ante-

lope Valley community with pride. Well known for his courage as well as kindness, Sergeant Owen received a Meritorious Conduct Medal in 2014 after safely rescuing a hostage held at gunpoint, devising the rescue plan and ensuring that his deputies were kept out of harm's way.

Colleagues fondly remembered Sergeant Owen's tireless work ethic, selfless nature, and deep commitment to the community he served. "Sergeant Owen had the qualities of a religious man—maybe a priest, a minister or a rabbi, or someone who took vows to serve mankind," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell. "He fed the hungry, he clothed those who needed it, and Steve Owen comforted the traumatized."

Outside of work, Sergeant Owen spent most of his time volunteering, coaching youth football, and mentoring young students. He also taught landlords and businessowners how to reduce crime on their properties. A skilled water-skier and equestrian, Sergeant Owen also enjoyed camping and gardening in his free time.

Above all else, Sergeant Owen was devoted to his family and his faith. On behalf of the people of California, whom Sergeant Owen served so bravely, I extended my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his wife, Tania; children, Branden, Chadd, and Shannon; and his entire extended family.

HONORING OFFICER LESLEY ZEREBNY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring to the life of Police Officer Lesley Zerebny, a beloved wife, devoted mother, and esteemed colleague who was tragically killed in the line of duty on October 8, 2016.

Officer Zerebny was born in Hemet, CA, to David and Luanne Kling. She was raised in a law enforcement family and expressed a desire to become a police officer from a young age. In 2014, Officer Zerebny joined the Palm Springs Police Department as a police officer trainee and was promoted to police officer after graduating from the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy.

Her positive attitude and commitment to the job helped Officer Zerebny stand out at the Palm Springs Police Department. She consistently accepted additional assignments and always offered a helping hand to her colleagues. She was described as "small in stature, but fearless" and "fiery, creative, full of life and tough as nails." Hard-working, dedicated, and compassionate, Officer Zerebny courageously served her community with distinction.

Officer Zerebny took enormous pride in everything she set out to do—especially in her service as a police officer—but her proudest accomplishment was her family. On behalf of the people of California whom Officer Zerebny served so bravely, I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Zach;