

attorney general and won—fighting on behalf of sexual assault survivors and against the abusive practices of the tobacco industry. She would run for Governor and, eventually, for the Senate—losing the first but winning the second. She would become the first woman ever elected to the Senate from the great State of North Dakota.

For someone who came from where HEIDI came, that election might have felt like a culmination—but no. For HEIDI, it was just the beginning. It was not about winning or even beating the odds. It was about what you did with the time you had when you were here.

As HEIDI talked about in her farewell speech, what is important is how we use our time. Let the history books report just how well the Senator from North Dakota used her time while she has been here.

HEIDI had been able to bring Democrats and Republicans together during a time of extraordinary partisan divisions—one of the few who could do it so successfully on such major issues. It had been because she understood how each side saw an issue, what each side wanted, and what a compromise could look like. Once she knew an agreement was possible, she worked like no other to see that it was achieved.

That is how she got Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator MCCONNELL on the same energy bill having to do with carbon capture—a remarkable feat with a staunch environmentalist who gives speeches on the floor every day about green and with a Senator from a coal State who defends that industry. That is how she created the first AMBER Alert in Indian Country. It was with our dearly departed friend, Senator McCain. That is how she helped to shut down backpage and child sex trafficking on the internet with broad bipartisan support.

What a great legacy—all of it bipartisan. That instinct for compromise and consensus was born from her life experience. In her family of nine, HEIDI was known as the arbitrator. Even her name is a compromise. Born Mary Kathryn, HEIDI became “Heidi” because there was a “Mary” and a “Kathryn” in her grade school class. She gladly accepted the nickname.

Of course, there have been times HEIDI couldn’t bring our two sides together on an issue because she had already been further along than both sides.

Senator HEITKAMP has been the first to really drive home in the Senate the plight of Native American women. She has worked at it tirelessly because she believes that if people were to know about the poverty and abuse and addiction that has plagued many reservations and how they affect both the men and women, they would be up in arms about it. So she wrote the first bill to create a Commission on Native American Children who suffer from rates of poverty, malnutrition, and education disparity far above other populations. A little while ago, it became law and

received funding. Recently, it had its first meeting—a legacy that will live on. She also wrote Savanna’s Act to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Native American women. It passed the Senate unanimously just a few weeks after the election.

Well, HEIDI, the Senate is catching up to you, and we intend to use the time we have to build on the incredible legacy you leave on these issues. Just so I will never forget what your service has meant to this Chamber, I will always keep the picture of the three HEITKAMP sisters on my wall in my office—all with their high North Dakota cheekbones. It is going to stay there to be a reminder of what HEIDI has done and, more importantly, I am sure she would say, as a reminder of the many things we still have to do to continue the great legacy she will leave.

Those of us on this side of the aisle—at least I—will miss her cornbread as well, her insistence on Corona beer, and her ability to suffer even the worst Fargo accents—or mimicking of Fargo accents as I attempted to do—that were directed in her way.

All of us in this Chamber will surely miss the junior Senator from North Dakota—her warmth, her passion, her sincerity, her political courage. We owe a debt of gratitude to Darwin, her husband, and to her children Ali and Nathan for borrowing HEIDI for these years. We wish them all the best as well.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—Continues

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 54, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 54) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

Pending:

Young amendment No. 4080, to clarify that this resolution prohibits United States Armed Forces from refueling non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I rise with gratitude to address my colleagues and members of my staff to reflect on one of my life’s greatest honors, and that is serving the people of the great State of Nevada. I begin by thanking them for giving me the profound honor of representing Nevada in the U.S. Congress for 12 years and then in the U.S. Senate for almost 8 years.

Nevada, thank you for granting me the privilege of working every day for a State I am so proud to call my home.

Of course, I thank my immediate family, especially Lynne, my wife, for being at my side for my nearly 30 years of public service.

To my children Hilary, Harris, Drew, and Emmy and to their spouses Eddie, McKenzie, and Collin, thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your tolerance of this process.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Jack and Janet Heller, my parents, for setting the right example and religious tone in our home while I was growing up.

To Richard Brombach, my father-in-law, and all of my wife’s family, thank you for raising such a wonderful daughter, sister, cousin, and aunt.

I have five brothers and sisters, and they all played a vital role in my upbringing. So thank you to Jack, Tamie, Mac, Sara, and Bryan.

All of these individuals whom I have mentioned gave me their steadfast support and made my journey from the Nevada Legislature to the secretary of state’s office, to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to the U.S. Senate possible. I could count on them every step of the way.

We all know how important our staffs are, and I am no exception. I have been fortunate to have had two staff members with me during my whole tenure in Congress, and I would like to highlight both of them.

Mac Abrams, my chief of staff, hails from North Carolina. I know more about North Carolina than I thought I ever would. Mac came to me from Senator Vitter’s office. After 12 years, we muse about writing a book together because, together, we have seen and been through a lot. From the great recession’s impact on Nevada to the visits from Senator Reid to my House office, to Senator Ensign’s resignation, to the Governor’s appointment of me to the Senate, to ObamaCare, Dodd-Frank, immigration reform, tax reform, and changing the courts—just to name a few—Mac has always been there.

In these Chambers, there are a lot of slings and arrows, and it takes an expert to walk through these minefields. No one does it alone. I have always had Mac Abrams by my side. So I thank him for his service to me but, more importantly, for his service to the State of Nevada.

Scott Riplinger has also served the office with distinction. Those who know him and who have worked with him know that he is a problem solver.