

that promote democracy, economic growth, and quality of life improvements for people around the world. Here at home, Senator FLAKE has helped veterans in Arizona receive assistance and recognition from the Federal Government.

In recent years, JEFF FLAKE has been a leading voice in speaking up for the institution of the Senate and its role as part of a coequal branch of government with the executive branch. He has sought to hold Presidents of both parties accountable as a Member of the Senate.

We will miss Senator FLAKE in the Senate next year, but I have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to serve his State and our Nation in the years ahead. We wish him well in that endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague Senator BOB CORKER, who will be retiring from the Senate this year. Senator CORKER and I were both elected in 2006. He was the only Republican in a class of 10 new Senators.

Through his years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee, most recently as its chairman, BOB CORKER worked to build a better world. For example, Senator CORKER worked with me and several of his Republican colleagues on global food security. Senator CORKER worked with Senator ISAKSON and me to pass the Global Food Security Act in 2016. This bill, first introduced by Senator Lugar of Indiana in 2008, allowed us to take a more strategic approach to foreign assistance and how we help to combat poverty and hunger around the world. Senator CORKER's work played an important role in creating a better future for millions around the world.

As he retires from the Senate, we thank BOB CORKER for his years of service and his commitment to the idea that America should be a force for good in the world.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, CLAIRE MCCASKILL. CLAIRE and I came to the Senate together in January 2007, and she has served the people of Missouri and the United States with distinction for the past 12 years.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once remarked, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." When I consider CLAIRE's service and her work on both the Special Committee on Aging and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, I am reminded of Justice Brandeis's words. Senator MCCASKILL was tireless in her efforts to shed light on policies and practices that hurt seniors, veterans, and the vulnerable in our Nation.

For example, Senator MCCASKILL has been a strong advocate of empowering

veterans, giving them a voice, and holding the VA accountable through the Veterans' Customer Satisfaction Program she designed. This program allows veterans to provide anonymous feedback on their healthcare treatment at VA facilities across the country.

Senator MCCASKILL has also been a champion for seniors. She used her position on the Special Committee on Aging to investigate fraudulent Medicare bills and an IRS-impersonation scheme to ensure seniors have access to quality healthcare and a financially stable retirement. I had the honor of succeeding her as ranking member of the Aging Committee and have worked to continue her focus on protecting seniors from scam artists.

Finally, Senator MCCASKILL's work on the Victims Protection Act of 2014 is a shining example of her commitment to protecting the wellbeing of our servicemembers who have endured the horror of sexual assault in the military. When many in power choose to stand down, CLAIRE stands up for survivors.

The Senate, and especially the class of 2006, will miss Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL in this Chamber, but I have no doubt that she will find a way to use her extraordinary skills to help those who are powerless.

Thank you, CLAIRE, for your years of public service.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN HELLER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about my colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year after more than a decade of combined service in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

During this time, DEAN HELLER has worked to guarantee that our veterans have what they need when they return home. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator HELLER worked to increase access to care for veterans and fought to guarantee that the Veterans Administration provides high-quality services across Nevada's widespread rural communities. I worked with Senator HELLER to reduce the VA disability claims backlog and improve accountability at the Veterans Administration.

We thank Senator HELLER for his service in the Senate and know he will continue to find ways to serve the people of Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO JOE DONNELLY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JOE DONNELLY, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year. During his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator DONNELLY has worked tirelessly for our seniors, our servicemembers and middle-class families in Indiana and across our country.

I have had the pleasure of serving beside Senator DONNELLY on the Special

Committee on Aging, where I have witnessed his dedication to protecting the rights of older Americans. Senator DONNELLY has worked to protect Medicare, to guarantee senior citizens' healthcare options are not restricted.

Senator DONNELLY and I also served together on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry where he introduced the Federal Water Quality Protection Act to protect the interest of our farmers by requiring the EPA to consult with them to ensure every American has access to clean water.

Senator DONNELLY's dedication to our servicemen and women was second to none. The first bill he introduced as a U.S. Senator, the Sexton Act, has improved mental health services by requiring all Active servicemembers receive a yearly mental health screening.

I will miss working with JOE DONNELLY in the next Congress, but I am certain he will continue to find a way to serve the people of Indiana and our Nation in the years ahead. We wish him well in those endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI HEITKAMP

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this year. During her time in the U.S. Senate, HEIDI never failed to remind us that we are blessed to serve here, to help others, and move our Nation forward.

As a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Senator HEITKAMP worked tirelessly on the farm bill, making sure it included provisions such as crop insurance to assure continuity of the quality American agricultural products.

Through her service on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, Senator HEITKAMP worked across the aisle, delivering bipartisan housing finance legislation that protects Americans from financial crises and preserves 30-year fixed mortgage rates.

Through her work on the Indian Affairs Committee, Senator HEITKAMP has been a champion for Native American and women's rights. She created a commission on Native children to address many of the challenges faced by Native American communities, including access to healthcare and education. In order to combat human trafficking and violence against women, Senator HEITKAMP introduced Savanna's Act to create a platform for data collection and sharing for best-practice response protocols.

Through her work on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Senator HEITKAMP promoted investing in small business to boost the American economy. One example is the SEED Act, which she introduced to increase early stage investment to foster the growth of small businesses and startups.