

tremendous credit to JOHNNY's determination and focus.

We passed a bill to modernize the FDA's medical device inspections and to strengthen patient access to rehabilitation hospitals in Colorado and Georgia. We passed an amendment to strengthen funding for early learning programs. And we introduced bills together to provide tax relief for AmeriCorps members who earned Segal Awards to help pay for college.

I could go on, and it is a credit to JOHNNY's broad record of bipartisan work.

JOHNNY has been a particular champion for our veterans. As a former member of the Georgia Air National Guard, JOHNNY has been a steady and effective advocate for those who have served. Last year, he was instrumental in passing a bipartisan bill to make it far easier for veterans to take their benefits to private doctors for care, among other long-overdue reforms. With our large population of veterans in Colorado, we were especially grateful to JOHNNY for his leadership.

There is a lot more I could share, but the point is, JOHNNY has used his time here well—with real results for the people of Georgia. He didn't do it through bullying or shouting or threatening to bring the Senate to its knees if he didn't get his way. He did it JOHNNY's way—with unfailing kindness, grace, humor, and dogged persistence. It would be easy to mistake JOHNNY's kindness for a lack of intensity or determination, but behind his easy smile is a fierce devotion to Georgia and a welcome impatience with the inaction of this town.

That approach is how JOHNNY leaves this body not only with a considerable record of accomplishment but with a long list of admirers on both sides of the aisle who are now wondering who is going to host the annual bipartisan BBQ. We are sad to see him go, and we wish him all the best as he returns to Georgia to focus on his health and spend time with his wife, Diane, their three kids and eight grandkids.

JOHNNY, I wish you the very best. Know that the Senate will feel your absence and cherish the example you set here.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, this month we recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Meteorological Society, AMS, which spent the last century advancing the atmospheric and related sciences. The work of AMS contributed to technologies and services that expand our understanding of the world and the risks associated with our water, weather, and climate.

AMS was founded in 1919 in Milton, MA, to advance, promote, and disseminate information about these important sciences. The society now has over 13,000 members, including researchers,

educators, students, enthusiasts, broadcasters, and other professionals in weather, water, and climate. Its rigorously peer-reviewed scientific publications and scientific conferences have contributed to knowledge growth across the geosciences, especially in the prediction of environmental phenomena that has led to lifesaving services. AMS also offers nationally recognized certifications that serve the public's need to identify broadcast and consulting meteorologists who have achieved a high level of competency in communicating complex weather, water, and climate information.

AMS has been a leader in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the science, technology, engineering, and math STEM fields. Its activities in support of STEM education and development activities for K-12 teachers have positively impacted millions of students nationwide. Its leadership in education also brings AMS to the Halls of Congress, where the society supports congressional fellows, research studies on environmental policy, and policy briefings to ensure that policies are developed using the best available knowledge and understanding.

AMS has also been crucial in developing the extensive scientific evidence of manmade climate change and has helped us understand the threat it poses to society if we do not act. AMS has been an international leader in providing peer-reviewed information to support evidence-based decision making related to climate change. Congress owes a debt of gratitude to AMS for its advocacy and education on this global threat.

With the scope and size of the challenge that climate change presents, Congress and the American people will undoubtedly depend on another successful century of leadership and scientific advancements from the American Meteorological Society. We congratulate and thank AMS for its century-long effort to understand the natural world, and we pledge our continued support to the important sciences AMS aims to advance.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN J. LEWIS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Karen J. Lewis on her many years of service to Congress. After a 45-year career distinguished by outstanding achievements, Karen will retire from the Congressional Research Service, CRS, in January 2020 after leading the Service's American Law Division, ALD, for many years.

Karen joined CRS as a legislative attorney in 1974 after graduating from Albany Law School earlier that year. In the following decade, Karen provided nonpartisan advice to Congress on some of the most difficult legal matters facing the Nation in the 1970s and 1980s, including sex discrimination in the workplace, abortion rights after *Roe v. Wade*, and the Equal Rights

Amendment. She also advised Congress on the implementation of numerous civil rights laws, including title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, title IX of the Higher Education Act, and the Age Discrimination Act.

In 1984, Karen moved into CRS management, serving first as the section head of ALD's consumer law group before heading the Division's administrative law section. In the nearly 25 years she served in these roles, Karen helped mentor dozens of attorneys, engraining in them CRS's core values of providing authoritative and objective legal advice regardless of partisan affiliation. Any attorney trained under Karen's tutelage is well familiar with her repeated advice to rely on primary sources to ensure CRS's legal advice is trustworthy and reliable.

In 2007, Karen was promoted to senior CRS leadership, serving in a variety of capacities, including 11 years as the Assistant Director of CRS's ALD. As the head of the law division, Karen played a central role reviewing ALD's written work, helping to ensure its accuracy, completeness, and quality. She also led countless initiatives for the Service. This included helping to establish the Legal Sidebar—CRS's first exclusively web-based product line to provide succinct and timely analysis to Congress on matters of pressing importance. She also was instrumental in raising the profile of the Service's Federal Law Update, a seminar series that provides continued legal education for Congress, which tripled its average attendance under Karen's leadership. Karen also spearheaded the first major revision since 1952 of the "Constitution Annotated," the Congress' official treatise of record on the Constitution. And Karen has been instrumental in hiring some of the finest attorneys in the Federal Government to help Congress in legal debates over executive power, health care reform, immigration, and the future of the Supreme Court. Moreover, throughout her time in management, Karen served on countless advisory panels that have helped establish organizational practices and policies for CRS.

While Karen's retirement is a loss for Congress, her imprint on the legislative branch will not soon disappear. CRS and the ALD offer an invaluable service to Congress by providing members with reliable, nonpartisan information to assist the legislative process at every step. Karen spent nearly all of her professional career supporting Congress's work and strengthening CRS through her work in ALD. She served as a role model for hundreds of attorneys who can attest that her integrity, work ethic, and dedication to CRS's core values is second to none. Her legacy will continue with the division she helped build and the Service more broadly. Congratulations to Karen, and I wish her many long and happy years in retirement.