

defer the payment of taxes. People who normally would have an estimated tax payment—personal business maybe—on September 15 will be given until the end of October to make that payment. They were looking for ways we, through the Federal Government, could exercise some charity, some consideration for those who were in harm's way and are now in desperate straits to pull their lives back together.

I come from a State where we have a lot of banks. We probably have more credit card banks per capita—probably issue half the credit cards issued in America. I am empowered to speak on this point. We have a lot of financial services companies around the world. They extend credit. Most do a great job of extending credit to people through America, the Northeast, Midwest, Southwest, and also the Gulf Coast States. Just as the Department of Treasury is trying to find ways to show kindness and a little consideration to those who are affected in the disaster areas on the tax side, my hope is our financial services companies which are going to be benefiting from the implementation of our new bankruptcy law this fall, this might be a good opportunity for some of them to say—and some of them already are doing this, I should point that out. Some financial services companies are saying: We want to help folks in the Southeast United States who have been affected, and here are the variety of ways we will do that. Some are not entirely forgiving indebtedness but are providing payment holidays, extending the dates on which payments are due, and taking away interest and finance charges. That is what we ought to applaud and the behavior we ought to encourage others to undertake.

Today, in addition to saying goodbye to our Chief Justice and to saying terrific work by folks from all walks of life to help people in dire straights, well done, we say to our financial services companies around the country that are trying to find their own ways to reach out and help people, God bless you. Good for you. Finally, to say to those who aren't, maybe you would like to join the parade and lend a helping hand as well.

(The remarks of Mr. CARPER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1627 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CARPER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of South Carolina, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until 3:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:30 p.m., recessed until 3:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MARTINEZ).

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a period of morning business with Senators recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from Idaho.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my 10 minutes, the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, be recognized for 10 minutes, to be followed by the Senator from Kansas, Mr. BROWNBACK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak for three very important reasons. Of course, first is to recognize our Chief Justice who has just passed, William Rehnquist.

Today the Senate paid its respects to the late Justice Rehnquist, filing through the halls of the Supreme Court where he served this Nation with distinction for more than 33 years.

I could not help but remember a conversation I had with Chief Justice Rehnquist a couple of years ago. I was walking to work and happened to run into him on one of his legendary strolls around the Court. We talked a bit about what was happening in the judicial nomination process in the Senate. But the specifics of that conversation are probably less important than the style of the conversation. He was informal, approachable, genteel, but certainly direct. And regardless of his physical frailty, he had lost none of his interest or his ability to give a shrewd analysis of the events of the day. If you spent any time at all with this very important man, you would feel the force of his great personality.

Much has already been written about the legal legacy of Justice Rehnquist because he was one of the most influential jurists of our time. He anchored and presided over a shift to conservative principles, underscoring in particular the importance of federalism and limitations on Government. I know some in the conservative community were disappointed that the Supreme Court, on his watch, did not reverse more prior left-leaning precedents, but his strong hand was certainly obvious in a long series of history-making decisions. William Rehnquist's impact on jurisprudence was profound and will be felt for many years to come.

In his personal life, I know this engaging man had many friends, and to all of them, as well as his family, I extend my deepest condolences. The Court has lost a brilliant and fair leader. America has lost a great public servant. I consider myself fortunate to have had the chance to know and be inspired by William Rehnquist.

I thank the leader for this opportunity to add one more voice to the chorus of tributes from a grateful Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DAMON TOBIAS AND GEORGE O'CONNOR

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, if you serve long enough in the Congress—I had the opportunity to serve 10 years in the House, and now I am into my third term in the Senate—you have a lot of very capable and wonderful people who work for you. If you serve long enough, as I have mentioned, they not only work for you but sometimes they decide to retire. In my situation, in my office, I have two people retiring this month, and I am going to miss them greatly. I want to speak a few moments about them.

First, I talk about Damon Tobias. Damon has been on my staff and handling my budget and tax issues and appropriations issues for a good number of years. I first met Damon in the House of Representatives when he was on the staff of Congressman Charlie Stenholm of Texas. Damon and I and Congressman Stenholm became involved in the balanced budget amendment movement at a time when deficits were totally out of control, and many of us worked to bring them under control. That is when Damon and I became friends. Through the 1980s we worked together on this most important issue.

I left the House to come to the Senate, and Damon left the Stenholm office to go to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Later on, 2 years after I came to the Senate, Damon joined my staff in March of 1992. Damon has continued to work for me over that time, dealing with the balanced budget amendment, dealing with taxes and budget and labor issues, immigration issues. Probably Damon has spent more time, along with me, trying to solve the immigration question for American agriculture and for workers in the American agricultural economy than nearly any other issue. Of course, that paramount bill he worked so much on now has majority support in this Senate and a vast coalition of Americans behind it, known as AgJOBS, and it is a legacy of which Damon can be truly proud. He worked on appropriations and small business and Hispanic issues.

He and his bride are going to return to his home State of New Mexico where Damon, I am sure, will proceed to do other things along with taking care of his aging mother. I and my staff are going to miss Damon Tobias, and I am convinced the Senate will also miss him.