

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that any time Senator MCCONNELL and I use not be charged against the time for the two sides on morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 5 years ago today, the Senate lost one of its hardest working, most respected Members: Senator Paul Wellstone. I can still remember very clearly the phone call I received from Pete Rouse, who was the chief of staff for Senator Daschle, and he said: I have some terrible news. There was an airplane crash, and we think Paul Wellstone was on that plane.

Well, hope springs eternal, and I was hoping that was wrong, but it wasn't. He was in a plane crash. Sheila, who was his partner—she was with him everywhere—was killed in that plane crash. One of his three children, Marcia, was also killed, and three campaign aides.

Typical for Paul Wellstone, he had made a commitment to be someplace, and he wanted to go. The weather was bad. The pilot said everything would be OK. The pilot wasn't telling him the way it really was. I am not going to get into how the accident happened or why it happened, but certainly it was nothing that Paul Wellstone did wrong. Paul Wellstone wanted to fulfill a commitment. He shouldn't have been up in that airplane. The pilot shouldn't have taken that airplane into the areas that he did, but he did.

In his life, Paul Wellstone earned the titles of doctor, professor, Senator, but he liked to be called Paul. That is what I am going to call him today.

Paul loved to talk. He stood back there, and he was a good speaker. I can remember the first time I heard him speak. There were some new Senators who had been elected, and we had an event in the Rotunda for the new Senators. I had never heard him speak before. He was dynamic, what he said. He was talking about why he had gotten involved in politics.

Paul came here in 1991. He was a crusader. That is what he was. He was a crusader. He was always out charging ahead on some issue he believed in. Mostly, the issues were those where people needed help. The poor, the left behind, veterans, the environment, and those with mental illness were always a special concern to him. He took pride in championing the fight for people needing a helping hand.

He knew a lot about growing up with adversity. He had a brother he loved who suffered from mental illness, and that is why he joined with Senator DOMENICI to work on mental health parity. His parents worked hard. They

didn't have much. But Paul told me how his father would sit at the table in the evening and talk to him about what was important in life.

He was a remarkable man. He was very small in stature physically, but in that big facility across Constitution Avenue, the police headquarters, where hundreds and hundreds of police officers come and go out of that facility every day over the years, Paul Wellstone still holds the record of being able to do the most chin-ups and the most pushups in a given period of time. He was a powerful little man physically.

Most of what he accomplished, as indicated with the chin-ups and pushups, was with sheer grit and determination. He earned a wrestling scholarship from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He married his high school sweetheart. He earned an Atlantic Coast Wrestling Championship and managed to graduate in just 3 years. After college, he earned a Ph.D. in political science and became a college professor at the age of 24 at a very academically known school, Carleton College in Minnesota.

But even then, in his years before the Senate, he was a true believer and an impassioned fighter for justice, and that is an understatement. One may not have agreed with what his definition of justice was, but his definition was worth fighting for, and he fought hard.

While teaching at Carleton College, he led the charge to divest the university from apartheid in South Africa. He helped local farmers when banks came to foreclose on their farms. That is Paul Wellstone. He fostered a new generation of active, civic-minded students by teaching specialized courses with names like "Social Movements" and "Grassroots Organizing." These were courses he invented. There were no textbooks for them.

There were some who said that for an untenured professor, teaching activism and leading campus protests wasn't the smartest career move a person could make. In fact, when Paul came up for tenure, he was initially denied. In effect, he was in the process of being fired. It took a groundswell of student support. Thousands and thousands of students, most of whom didn't even go to that university, rallied on his behalf. He kept his job. He got tenure. At 28, he was the youngest tenured professor in the history of Carleton College. It was done because the students wanted him more than did the administration, because he was a great teacher.

So when he came to the Senate, it was no surprise he brought a fearless progressive spirit with him. I recall observers comparing him to Jimmy Smith's character in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." He was idealistic, he was determined, and he was very effective.

He came here refusing to be phased by the politics of division, refusing to

be phased by business as usual. I don't think the phrase "status quo" was in his vocabulary. Wherever he saw injustice, intolerance, or simply ineffectiveness, one would understand that Paul Wellstone would be around. When he found injustice in the treatment of the mentally ill, he stepped forward to ensure parity for sufferers of what were known as unspoken illnesses when it comes to insurance caps. When he found injustice in the treatment of our veterans, he stepped forward to help them, especially those who were homeless. When he found injustice in the way our Earth was treated, he stepped forward to protect the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge from drilling, among other things. He never hesitated, paused, or pondered. He stepped forward. He was really a leader.

Now, in his leading, that didn't mean everybody agreed with him because much of the time—in fact, most of the time—he was in the minority. He didn't care if he had two people supporting him or one or if he was alone. He never hesitated—I repeat, he never paused or pondered.

Many wondered how this fire-breathing progressive was able to accomplish so much in his time. The answer is that he believed in bipartisanship and he actively embraced it. It was never a surprise to see Paul team up with one or more of the Senate's most conservative Members to get something done for the people of the State of Minnesota or our country. During his time here in Washington, it never changed him. It really didn't. He left this Earth with the same idealisms and passion he always had.

He once said:

Never separate the life you live from the words you speak.

He lived by that rule.

I recall that when he first arrived in the Senate, he kept wondering—he would leave his office all messed up, and he would come back and it was clean. He asked: Who does that? He was told: People come in late at night and clean your office—the janitors. So Paul Wellstone, after learning that, stayed that night. They came after midnight. He waited for them so he could tell them how much he appreciated them cleaning his office. That is the kind of guy he was. True to form, he did that, as he did many unusual things, in the minds of many.

There is a man who still works here; his name is Gary. I don't know Gary's last name. He is a big man. He helps us here. We have all seen him. Gary said people refer to him as "Tiny." Paul told me: I would appreciate it if you wouldn't refer to him as "Tiny." His name is Gary. I have never referred to him as anything other than Gary. He thought that was a pejorative statement. Tiny, as many people refer to him, is a huge man, and Paul somehow thought that was not the right thing to do.

He was really my friend. I counseled with him. I went to the doctor with him. Right before he was killed, he had

a terribly bad back. Oh, it was bad. He refused to go to the doctor. He refused to go to the hospital, which is where he should have gone. We took him to the doctor down here. The sweat, because of the pain, was pouring off his face.

He was a very tough man. I will always remember that phone call I got from Pete Rouse. I will always remember Paul Wellstone. The loss of his presence has been felt and missed every day. He added a new dimension to the Senate. You don't always have to win to be a winner. So I say to his sons, David and Mark, and the entire Wellstone family, Paul Wellstone will always be in my heart and in the hearts of anyone who knew him.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I, too, today wish to comment on the remarkable life of Paul Wellstone. Elaine and I got to know Paul for two reasons. No. 1, they lived right near us on Capitol Hill and we would frequently see them coming and going. No. 2, Sheila was from eastern Kentucky, and we had an opportunity to share observations about those good people in eastern Kentucky from whom she sprang.

Today is indeed a sad anniversary. I join the Senate family in honoring the memory of Senator Paul Wellstone and celebrating his distinguished Senate career.

He was the most unlikely Senator. His election in 1990 was widely considered kind of a fluke, an accident. But he was neither. He was the genuine article, an extraordinary man who came to work every day with enthusiasm. He had a very upbeat outlook on life. Sometimes people who are either on the very left or the very right have a kind of grim view of things. Paul would, by his own admission, say he was on the very far left of things, but he didn't have a grim nature about him at all. He was upbeat and optimistic, and he came to work every day ready to fight for what he believed in.

Paul was a champion of mental health and other causes. With Paul, you never had any uncertainty about where he stood. It was absolutely clear. I am having a hard time recalling a single matter upon which he and I agreed, but Paul was what I would call a conviction-based politician, a public servant who never wavered from his beliefs, even when the political winds shifted against him.

He and Sheila—that eastern Kentuckian I talked about—were absolutely inseparable. High school sweethearts, they had been married for 39 years when, regrettably, the plane carrying them, their daughter Marcia, three staff members, and two pilots went down in Eveleth, MN, on the way to a debate in Duluth.

The entire Nation grieved that day for this former wrestling champ, an unlikely and, as I indicated, unforgettable Senator. We grieve on this anniversary with Paul's two surviving sons,

David and Mark, and the many former Wellstone staffers, the Wellstone people who worked so hard to carry on his legacy. As the majority leader indicated, he had a distinguished academic career, earned his bachelor's degree in 1965 and his doctorate 3 years later. He plowed right through college at the University of North Carolina, both his undergraduate degree and his doctorate. He was a Phi Beta Kappa. That is about as good as it gets for a student at college. He actually attended on a wrestling scholarship.

Paul was not very tall. He was 5 feet 5 inches or 5 feet 6 inches but a strong guy. He was a champion Atlantic Coast Conference wrestler. He was named to the all-ACC wrestling team.

As the majority leader outlined, Paul was a great professor, widely loved and admired by his students, and I think it is safe to say he was widely admired and loved by his colleagues in the Senate.

We will always remember Paul Wellstone.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (MR. TESTER). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first portion and the Republicans controlling the final portion.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

REMEMBERING PAUL AND SHEILA WELLSTONE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to speak this morning to honor the memory of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. Today, it is exactly 5 years ago that they died in a plane crash outside Eveleth, MN, a beautiful area of our State called the Iron Range, where, in some ways, Paul Wellstone got his political start. Part of it was the farms of southern Minnesota, when he stood up for farmers when the farms were being foreclosed on. But part of it was the work he did with those iron ore miners. My grandfather was an iron ore miner who worked 1,500 feet underground in the mines of Ely, MN, about a half hour away from where Paul died.

Paul Wellstone's daughter Marcia was also killed in the crash—his longtime staff members, Mary McEvoy, Tom Lapik, and Will McLaughlin, as well as the pilot and copilot of the plane. On this day, 5 years later, the people of Minnesota are remembering

that crash and remembering Paul and Sheila. It is so hard to believe it has been 5 years since we have lost them. It feels both so long ago and not so long ago at all. Part of why it doesn't seem so long ago to me is because everywhere I go in this Capitol, people remind me of Paul. When I say I am a Senator from Minnesota, they remember Paul—people such as TED KENNEDY, who worked with him on mental health issues, to the tram drivers, who for years and years have driven that tram from the Capitol to the Senate office buildings. When I said I was this new Senator from Minnesota, the driver said, "Paul Wellstone was a Senator from Minnesota."

The cops who guard at the Capitol remember Paul. The secretaries in the offices remember Paul. That is because he treated everybody with such dignity in this Capitol and with such dignity in our State. That was Paul Wellstone.

For me, as for so many other Minnesotans, it is impossible to forget the moment we first heard about the plane going down and then the wait to get the final news that there were no survivors.

Paul and Sheila would be the first to tell us we should not look back on what they accomplished and stood for. They would be the first to insist our responsibility is to look ahead to the work that still must be done to carry their legacy forward.

Although Paul and Sheila are no longer with us, we know their dreams and passions remain very much alive. I get my own special reminder every day, not just with the employees in the Capitol but because the flag from Paul's Senate office hangs in our Senate office. It is a powerful reminder to me of Paul and all he tried to do in Washington.

During his lifetime as an educator, as an activist, and as a Senator, Paul inspired people throughout Minnesota and throughout America.

Even now, his work and his spirit continue to inspire people of all ages, from all walks of life, all across our country, who remember Paul for the fundamental values he fought and struggled for.

He was a voice for the voiceless. He and Sheila stood for victims of domestic violence who were afraid to talk about it, afraid to go to court. They stood for them and made this their life's passion.

He brought power to the powerless—people such as the iron miners in Minnesota, people such as those farmers whose homes and farms were foreclosed on.

He brought justice to those who suffered injustice.

He brought opportunity to those who didn't have opportunity. When going to any small community event in our State or to events with large immigrant populations, they all remember Paul coming to their marketplaces or how he would meet with the women. Some of them—the elders—can hardly