

a privilege to have known him in lots of different ways. In my being a conservative Republican from Texas, and the Senator being a liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, many people wonder about this friendship. And therein lie many stories, but let me tell a couple tonight.

The first one goes back to when I was a fairly junior Member of Congress. I don't remember what the meeting was about, but there was a meeting in the Capitol in a small room. I was late getting to the meeting, and apparently so was Senator Kennedy. When I walked in, there were no remaining seats around the table, but there were a couple of seats over by a window. In fact, there was only one seat empty, and it was next to Senator Kennedy who at that point I had not met. I felt like I had nowhere else to go, so I sat by Senator Kennedy.

After we had been there about a half hour and were bored by the discussion that was going on at the table, we started talking. I mentioned to Senator Kennedy that, in fact, my grandmother had been from Boston, that I had enjoyed that part of the country many times on vacations, and we discovered that we had a mutual interest in sailing, although I have not gotten to do nearly as much of it as he has.

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In any case, we spent the next hour just having a wonderful, friendly discussion. And that was the beginning of this friendship that I have referred to.

Not long after that, I was at another meeting. Actually this was a conference meeting in the Capitol, where there were four or five Members of the House and four or five members of the Senate in attendance trying to work out the differences on a particular piece of legislation. What so happened at that particular meeting, I was at the table and so was Senator Kennedy. In fact, he was directly across the table from me. And we had had a relatively mild discussion of the issues at hand, and it was time for Senator Kennedy to speak.

He stood up at the table, proceeded to lay into us Republicans as if we knew nothing about the issues at hand, made a very persuasive argument on his own behalf and on behalf of the issues that he cared about. The voice was so loud that, quite frankly, the walls of this small room were rattling. All the staff who were seated around the room were shaking. And I was wondering what I had gotten myself into. And here was the Senator with whom I had struck a friendship, and he was practically accusing all of us of not knowing what we were talking about on this particular legislation.

Well, the Senator talked for 5 or 10 minutes, completely dominated the room, and there really wasn't much else to say, or at least no one felt like saying anything in response to the Senator. Well, when he sat down, he picked up a piece of paper in front of

them, grabbed a pencil, which I was absolutely sure he was going to break in half. But instead of breaking the pencil in half, he scribbled a note on this piece of paper. And everybody in the room is watching him. And he throws the piece of paper across the table to me. And I'm thinking, what is going on?

So I pick up the piece of paper. This must have been around July of that particular summer. I look at the piece of paper, and Senator Kennedy has written on the piece of paper, "LAMAR, what are you doing for vacation this summer?"

You had to sort of be there to appreciate what had gone on in the previous 10 minutes and the friendship that this particular note to me showed.

I very quickly folded the note up and put it in my pocket so no one else would see it. And, of course, everybody in the entire room was now wondering what was it that Senator Kennedy had written to the Republican across the table, SMITH from Texas.

I never have revealed that note until right now. But that does show not only friendship, but both stories and many others that I could tell I think reveal a larger point. And that is the public is probably not nearly as aware as they might be of the genuine friendships that occur in Congress between individuals who might not agree on many of the political issues but who can agree to be friends and appreciate each other's company.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. May I ask unanimous consent for 1 more minute?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, does not permit the extension of a Special Order speech by unanimous consent.

REMEMBERING SENATOR KENNEDY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In this case, the idea that individuals can be friends from different sides of the aisle, and even if they disagree on some things political, it occurs more often than a lot of people might expect. In fact, that's probably one of the unwritten stories of Congress. And I'm glad it exists.

Certainly on the surface there is an extreme partisanship. Sometimes that is regrettable. But underneath the surface, there are friendships that can occur, for which I think both sides and both friends can be grateful, and I am certainly in that category.

Mr. MARKEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I will be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman for his great words. And we thank all

of the other Members for their participation in this Special Order.

The RECORD is going to remain open so any Member that wishes to make a comment about our great Senator Ted Kennedy may do so.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Edward M. Kennedy—a mentor, a friend and the greatest Senator our country has ever known.

While it is still difficult to imagine these hallowed halls without Teddy, today we honor the man who was an inspiration to all of us who have answered the call to public service. And while one hour is not nearly enough to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Sen. Kennedy, today we pause to celebrate the life of this extraordinary man.

Never afraid to 'sail against the wind' in the name of justice, equality and opportunity, Teddy was a treasured friend, a tireless advocate for the people of Massachusetts and a legislator without peer. Throughout his distinguished career, he helped bring health care to millions of children, enabled many young people to afford a college education and ensured that so many of our citizens could realize the American dream.

I am honored to serve with his son PATRICK and to know his other children Teddy Jr. and Kara, his beloved wife Vicki and all the members of the Kennedy family. And there is no doubt that his trusted friend and former staffer, PAUL KIRK, will serve with distinction in his interim appointment.

Teddy was 'an idealist without illusions,' as his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy used to say. He came to the Senate to get things done. He was unafraid to reach across the aisle to make a deal and he counted some of his staunchest ideological foes among his closest friends. But he never compromised his core beliefs in justice, equality and access to the American dream.

From his first speech on the Senate floor in support of the Civil Rights Act until his valiant final fight for health care reform, when Ted Kennedy spoke, you knew you were hearing the "true compass" of a committed, principled progressive.

He transcended petty politics to become "the lion of the Senate," a legislator like no other. Teddy's was an unmatched legislative career, which included 47 years in office, more than 2,500 bills authored and scores of laws bearing his name.

On issues of war and peace there was no better moral compass than Teddy. He picked up the banner of nuclear arms control from his fallen brother John and fought tirelessly to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons and make the world a safer place. Beginning in the 1980s, Teddy worked closely with me to highlight the dangers of a nuclear arms race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and the need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In 1982, when I introduced the first nuclear freeze resolution in Congress to stop the buildup of nuclear weapons, no one thought we could do it. But it was Teddy who led the fight for a freeze in the Senate, paving the way for a dramatic showdown with President Reagan that made it necessary for the Reagan Administration to embrace nuclear arms control—a course it initially had rejected.

Our country is a better place because of Ted Kennedy. For the worker who struggled to

make ends meet in a minimum wage job, Ted Kennedy was there. For the new mother caring for a newborn, Ted Kennedy was there. For a family in need of health care for a sick child, Ted Kennedy was there. For a planet in peril due to the threat of nuclear war, Teddy was there.

And now we must be there for the causes that Senator Kennedy championed throughout his long and distinguished career.

In his final days, Senator Kennedy wrote a letter to President Obama, reminding us all of just what is at stake in the health care debate. "What we face is above all a moral issue," he wrote. "At stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our society."

And there is no one who better understood those principles than Teddy.

At the Democratic Convention in 1980, when it was clear that Teddy's inspired campaign for the nomination had come to an end, he was still fighting for the issues he cared about.

Just hours after he delivered his famous speech declaring that the "dream shall never die" I went up to see him in his hotel room headquarters. And what struck me that night and stays with me to this day, was that instead of being heartbroken after coming up short in his quest for the presidency, there was no defeat in that hotel room. Instead, Teddy was triumphant. Despite the difficult day, he was still in high spirits.

Although he was a great Senator before that day, it was on that night, that he truly began his transformation into the "Lion of the Senate," the master legislator fighting for the issues that mattered most: health care, civil rights, education, human rights and others. That night, like so many other nights in his long career, he was able to transcend misfortune and shape something bigger. To commit to a cause larger than himself.

Above all, I will remember Ted Kennedy for his sense of hope. In rough seas and in calm, he always believed our better days were just ahead. In his final fight, the dignity and grace he showed was an inspiration to us all.

And throughout a long life of tragedy and triumph he never faltered in his belief in this country and its highest ideals. From landmark legislation like The Americans with Disabilities Act that touched the lives of millions, to simple gestures like reading to schoolchildren at a school near the capitol, Teddy believed in the American dream and helped so many to realize it.

And although the mighty Lion has passed on, Teddy's roar in defense of the disadvantaged and vulnerable will echo eternally in the halls and history of America, inspiring future generations to service, self-sacrifice and a commitment to our country's highest ideals.

And as we pause to remember this great man, the task now is to follow Teddy's immortal words and ensure that the causes which he championed shall endure, that his hopes will live on and his dreams of a better future for everyone shall never die.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the outstanding life and legislative achievements of U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and although that is over 33 years ago, Ted Kennedy had already been serving in the U.S. Senate for over a decade.

The achievement of being the third longest serving Senator in our history is an accomplishment in its own right, but Senator Kennedy affected public policy in such a substantial and enduring way that the length of his time in office is really only one achievement in his remarkable journey.

Senator Kennedy boldly championed landmark legislation to improve the lives of all Americans. He fought fiercely for the poor and the disadvantaged. His legislative achievements include being a major player in a wide range of issues; from addressing funding for cancer research, health insurance reform, benefits for the mentally disabled, discrimination against disabilities, and the Children's Health Insurance program to Civil Rights, and education reform. Kennedy always considered healthcare the pinnacle issue of his legislative career, and it was a great achievement for him to see comprehensive healthcare reform moving further along in legislative process than it ever has before, five of the six committees handling the healthcare bill had passed them out of committee at the time of his passing.

One of his most recent achievements was the signing into law of The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009. This landmark legislation tripled volunteer opportunities across the country and created a new service corps for education, health care, energy, and veterans.

Although Kennedy was diagnosed last year with a malignant brain tumor, he continued to play a major role in the healthcare debate, and up until his final days he was truly the "Lion of the Senate" serving fiercely and passionately on behalf of so many Americans both in Massachusetts and around the country. August 25, 2009 was surely a sad day for all of us—but although Kennedy's life was filled with tragedy, his life was also filled with triumph. His victories in life far surpass most men and women's and his story is one of humanity and progress.

Senator Kennedy was a great statesman and a true leader, who cared deeply about America's future and I am honored to have served in the United States Congress with him. I extend my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Senator Kennedy's wife and family, and hope they take comfort in knowing that his legend and legacy carries on in the hearts and memories of a grateful nation.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who dedicated his life to the people of Massachusetts. The passing of Senator Ted Kennedy has left our Commonwealth without its principal champion, and while we grieve, we take solace in remembering the magnitude of his many accomplishments during almost 47 years in the United States Senate.

I am proud to have served with Senator Kennedy as a Member of the Massachusetts Delegation and humbled when I recognize what we have lost. His work impressed me before I was elected to Congress, but it was in this context that I came to know Senator Kennedy personally and witness his insight and intelligence and his formidable skills as a legislator. His ability to recognize an important and often daunting goal, and then effect legislation to achieve that end, was unparalleled. The testimonies we have heard from friends and colleagues in recent weeks bear witness to that.

Ted Kennedy's approach to government had been instilled in him from an early age—that we must, no matter our position in life, strive to help those in need and speak up for those whose voices cannot be heard. It is a lesson both he and his brothers took to heart and to which they gave their lives in service. Senator Kennedy knew the people of Massachusetts needed his help, but his compassion did not stop there. He often championed national causes and shepherded major legislation with broad impact across the country: ensuring civil rights, expanding children's health insurance, establishing the Americans with Disabilities Act, strengthening education and service programs, and finally the effort he called "the cause of my life"—reform of our health care system.

Senator Kennedy soared to great heights in the Senate. He achieved immense influence among his colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, while never compromising his progressive values or quenching his fighting spirit. The personal touch he lent to relationships with colleagues and constituents told of his deep connection to the work he was doing and his dedication to being the most effective Senator that chamber has ever seen.

I can say I am a better person for having known Ted Kennedy. I am saddened by his loss not only for myself and for the people of Massachusetts, but for the citizens of a grateful nation. Indeed, the world mourns the loss of his passion for justice and peace. We must all strive to honor his legacy and continue fighting for the causes he defended with such vigor.

Let it be forgotten or overlooked, Ted Kennedy was also a father and husband. I offer my deepest condolences to Vicki, Kara, Ted Jr., Caroline, Curran, and of course my colleague PATRICK. I thank each of you for allowing us to share this great man with you. He is, and will always be, greatly missed.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy last month, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lost its greatest champion, and the United States of America lost one of its strongest voices for fairness, equality and justice. Personally, I lost a treasured friend. From civil rights to health care, from voting rights to Head Start, Ted Kennedy played a significant role in the passage of some of the most important legislation in our lifetime. I have often said his record in the United States Senate is unrivaled. And I believe history will remember him as the most effective individual to ever serve in that institution.

The Ted Kennedy his friends and colleagues knew was a kind, considerate, generous, funny, thoughtful and hard working person whose presence lit up the room. His personality and charisma were contagious. He loved his family and spoke about them with great pride. During good times and bad, he was always there with a phone call or a note. When it came to western and central Massachusetts, he always offered to help. He was a master of detail. His ability to work across the aisle was legendary. At the end of the day, Ted Kennedy made a difference in the lives of countless individuals.

For the past year he faced one of the most difficult challenges of his life. But he did so with characteristic dignity and grace. Whether it was sailing on Cape Cod in his beloved Mya, or throwing out the first pitch at Fenway

Park, he taught us how to live life while facing adversity. And in the process he became an inspiration for us all.

I became interested in public service during John F. Kennedy's historic campaign for president nearly 50 years ago. Since then, I have been an outspoken and loyal supporter of the Kennedy family. It has been the honor of a lifetime to call Ted Kennedy my friend. His extraordinary life and legacy will never be forgotten. As we pay tribute to him tonight, my thoughts are with Vicki, Kara, Edward Jr, PATRICK, Curran, Caroline and the rest of the Kennedy family. He will never be forgotten.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, what a remarkable life Edward M. Kennedy lived. When I first met Senator Kennedy in 1963, I mistakenly believed he was in office because of his family connections. As I watched and interacted with him over the subsequent decades of his great legislative career—matched by few if any—he demonstrated a strong work ethic. No one worked harder. He had a deep commitment to freedom, fairness, and justice, and his persistent defense of the 'little guy' was absolutely genuine. The result is a body of legislation that has brought equality, justice, and opportunity to millions. This towering figure was an inspiration to so many of his colleagues, and he showed each of us—from the most senior to the most junior—the highest level of consideration.

My thoughts go out to his family, including his wife Vicki and his son PATRICK, who is a close friend of mine. Edward M. Kennedy will live on in the accomplishments he leaves. May all of those close to him know we are grateful for his service to the nation.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to recognize the legacy of a man who will surely be remembered among the great legislators in our nation's history—"the Lion of the Senate"—Senator Ted Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy was a champion for peace and justice throughout his entire career, and our nation is undoubtedly a better place thanks to his leadership over the years—in particular on the issues of education, health care, and civil rights.

I vividly remember the first time I met Ted Kennedy.

I was interning in Washington, DC in the summer of 1974, at a time when there were very few African American interns on Capitol Hill. My friend, the late Ron Brown, was working for Senator Kennedy at that time, so I called him and requested a meeting with my fellow African American interns.

Senator Kennedy immediately granted our request—we met with him a few hours later and knew immediately that we were truly in the presence of greatness.

More recently, I attended several election events with Senator Kennedy during the primary election.

I had the pleasure of attending the American University rally for Senator Obama where Senator Kennedy first announced his support and delivered one of the best speeches of the entire campaign.

A few weeks later, I attended an amazing rally at the Beebe Memorial Cathedral in Oakland where I was honored to introduce Senator Kennedy before he delivered another amazing speech.

The line to get in the door seemed to stretch for miles as supporters waited with anticipation to see this great statesman and warrior for peace and justice.

Over the course of his career in public office, Senator Kennedy underscored the meaning of the phrase "to whom much is given much is required."

His legislative legacy is unrivaled, and affects the lives of tens of millions of Americans every single day—especially the less fortunate among us.

But despite his countless achievements, there is one unfinished piece of business that was dear to his heart that we must continue to fight for: achieving universal health care in America, and doing so in a way that truly reforms our broken health care system.

In a letter written to President Obama shortly after learning of the terminal nature of his illness, Senator Kennedy described our nation's current health care crisis as a "moral issue"—which concerns "not just the details of policy, but the fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country."

Senator Kennedy knew, as we know, that healthcare is a fundamental human right.

Let us work to pass real health care reform, not just in remembrance of the cause that was this great man's life work, but because we see this issue as he saw it—as a test of our society's integrity.

Last week I had the honor, alongside my colleague, the Honorable KENDRICK MEEK, of presenting the late Senator Kennedy with the Mickey Leland Award at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Awards Dinner.

The award, received by his son, the Honorable PATRICK KENNEDY, was bestowed upon him in recognition of his lifetime's work in providing opportunities for society's less fortunate.

From civil rights, to education, and finally to health care, the late Senator Kennedy is destined to be remembered as a true champion of equality and opportunity.

Our charge now is to keep this noble legacy alive by renewing our efforts to ensure that health care reform—his great, unfinished cause—provides each and every American with the universal and affordable coverage that was his vision.

I look forward to working with you in the weeks to come to do everything we can to make sure that happens.

THE RULE OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, to my hall mate, Mr. KENNEDY, that was a moving tribute and well deserved. I am glad we could yield the time.

The subject of this hour that we have been talking about now for, I believe, about 14 or 15 weeks is we are talking about the rule of law and how the rule of law must prevail. It is the glue that holds our society together. And when we start to ignore rules or ignore others' laws, then we are ignoring what our Founding Fathers intended to rule us.

When we established this Nation, the people who established it came from a monarchy. Yet they felt that a much greater society would be a society

which would pledge itself to the rules, not to the authority. So they didn't want a king. They didn't want some powerful dictator. They wanted the rules to prevail in the Nation. And that's one of the secret parts of the society that was created that nobody can see, that over time has developed the most important and most powerful Nation on the face of the Earth that has ever existed.

We cannot ignore that rule of law today. We cannot let personalities or concepts or attitudes change the fact that there are rules that you follow, and you must follow those rules. And there are laws, both civil and criminal laws, that have to be upheld. We as a society have created those laws. They have governed us in some instances since the beginning of the Republic. And to waive or to ignore those laws, we do it at our peril.

So tonight we're going to talk about some legislation that addresses the issue of ignoring or not following certain laws or bending laws.

We are going to start off with my good friend ROSCOE BARTLETT. I'm going to yield to him, and he's going to talk to us about a bill that he has, H.R. 2743, the Car Dealer Equity Act, in which he talks about the fact that he feels some laws, some contract laws, were either bent or ignored.

I yield to my colleague.

Mr. BARTLETT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Before talking about this very interesting subject, I would like to spend just a few moments talking about why I think the rule of law is so important.

We are one person out of 22 in the world, and we have a fourth of all of the good things in the world. And I ask myself how come we are so darned fortunate that this one person out of 22 has a fourth of all the good things in the world?

I look around for people who are working, bending their back, and sweating. And I will tell you I don't see very many white faces, and I don't see an awful lot of black faces. I see Hispanics. So it's not hard work that's accountable for the fact that we're so lucky.

And then I look at education and technical education. We live in a technical world today. But most of our bright young people are going into careers of political science and law. This year the Chinese will graduate seven times as many engineers as we graduate, and about half of our engineers are Chinese and Indian students. So it's not our commitment to technical areas that makes us so fortunate.

Just what is it that is so different about this country that we are so fortunate, this one person in 22 that has a fourth of all the good things in the world?

Mr. Speaker, I think that it's our commitment to the rule of law and particularly our commitment to those laws that protect our civil liberties.

You see, there is no Constitution in the world, there is no bill of rights in