

gun to my head for that wonderful opportunity, but I reject it and I think the American people reject it, so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REMEMBERING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I come to my seat today on the floor of the Senate to take a few minutes to share my thoughts on the late Senator ROBERT BYRD and his tragic death a few days ago. I come with a perspective different than those who served with him for decades because this is my first term in the Senate. I was elected in 2004.

In our caucus, which then was in the majority, we were asked to take responsibility for presiding, just as the current Presiding Officer is doing today. The day I picked was Friday mornings, not knowing we would not be here on a lot of Friday mornings except for a normal business session. But I did it on every Friday morning. For 2 years I presided over the Senate from about 10 in the morning until about 12:30 in the afternoon.

Friday morning is the day ROBERT BYRD would come to the floor of the Senate and share and reshare some of his great speeches. I was here to listen to the entire speech on the tribute to mothers on Mother's Day. I heard him, oftentimes, talk so wonderfully about his lovely wife. I heard him talk about the Roman Empire, its rise and its fall. I heard him make speeches on the rules of the Senate, the details that no one in this room could ever come close to.

But, for me, the most important contribution of the Senator from West Virginia was the fact it didn't matter how experienced you were or what your party was, if you had a question on the rules of the Senate, you could go to the seat of Senator BYRD and you could get an answer that you could put in the bank. He loved sharing his knowledge. He loved the institution of the Senate. He never saw it from a partisan standpoint, he always saw it from a traditional and an institutional standpoint.

There will be a lot of great tributes paid to Senator BYRD over the next few days and they will all be well deserved. I certainly share in the sympathy that all extend to his extended family for this tragic loss. But many in this Senate today and many who served in the years since he was first elected have benefited from the wisdom and "gentleman-ness" that ROBERT BYRD rep-

resented. He is a tradition in the Senate. He is a tradition in the State of West Virginia. He will be missed, but I will be forever thankful to ROBERT BYRD for what he took the time to share with me, to help me understand the ways of the Senate. He truly was a Senator's Senator and I extend my sympathy to his family and the people of West Virginia on the tragic loss of this great Senator.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND ACT OF 2010—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5297, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5297, a bill to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as we continue the important work of the Senate this week on a number of important bills, one of them being the small business package that is before this body now, we are always mindful, as we come to the floor with the beautiful flowers on Senator BYRD's desk, of the great loss we are all experiencing. His colleagues here and in his home State of West Virginia, the Nation and, as you know, many people around the world are mourning the death of a great Senator, a very well-known Senator, a very well-respected Senator, and a very historic figure.

So as we all do our work today, it is with heavy hearts that we work. I told my staff today walking into the building, it seems so empty and particularly quiet, and it is because of the great respect this Senator enjoyed in his life and now enjoys in his death.

But as even Senator BYRD would say if he were here, the work of the Senate, which he loved very much, needs to go on because it is the work of the people in a very special way. It is in that spirit that I come to the floor to briefly talk about a bill we are attempting to move to.

It is a major piece of legislation. It has three distinct components. It has been in shape and in the works for many months now. A part of this bill has come out of the Small Business Committee. I am extremely proud, as

the chair of that committee, that the package we have contributed has been built on strong, solid bipartisan support. In fact, many of the provisions came out of our committee 17 to 0 or 17 to 1 or 18 to 0. We have had tremendous cooperation on the part of my ranking member, Senator SNOWE, who has been to the floor several times in the last couple of weeks, joining me in talking about the importance of focusing the congressional efforts and Congress's efforts on small business, on Main Street.

We have spent a lot of the last year and a half dealing with the big companies, the big companies on Wall Street, the big banks, the big insurance companies, the big health care companies. We have had to deal with it because it has been in a state of crisis where Wall Street was going to collapse, the financial structures were collapsing. We had to act quickly. The health care tragedies or stresses were clearly visible, and we had to work our way through that. But now it is time for this Congress, at this time, this summer, to focus on small business, because these are the businesses on the front line of the battle against this recession. And this is a battle. It is a battle to end this recession, to fight and win our way back to prosperity. Much of this can be accomplished if we would focus on the businesses in our neighborhoods, on Main Street, on the farm-to-market road, the small business owners driving those pickup trucks, delivering supplies and equipment all over America, in urban areas and in rural areas.

We would be very much helped if we could get our minds and our hearts on them, because they are going to be the ones that lead us out of this recession. Small firms created 65 percent of all new jobs from 1993 to 2009. It was true in the early 1990s. It was probably true if you would go back to the 1980s, probably true in the 1970s. It is true today. Job creation is not going to come 1,000 jobs at a time. It comes one at a time, two at a time, or three new jobs in small businesses all over America.

What we do here on tax policy, on strengthening the Small Business Administration, on freeing up capital for them, is going to make the difference between whether this recession comes to an end. So I am pleased about the work that has been done.

A portion of our bill has come through the Small Business Committee. A portion of the bill has come through the Finance Committee. I have to take my hat off to the Senator from Montana, MAX BAUCUS, and his ranking member, Senator GRASSLEY, former Chairman GRASSLEY, from Iowa. They have worked nonstop and overtime on a number of bills that have to do with our Tax Code. But they have set aside this special time for their committee to work on tax relief, tax extensions, tax relief for small businesses to add to this package.

So it is a portion of tax cuts and tax relief for small businesses that is so