

laws are important. And that last quality of trying to bring people together, which I have heard the Senator from Colorado talk about, is what Senator MIKULSKI's public service career has been all about.

So tonight and through the day we have heard colleagues pay tribute. I made mention of the fact that so often I hear these tributes when a colleague is leaving the Senate. I would like to close these brief remarks by saying that I am especially grateful that the cause of good government is enhanced by the fact that Senator MIKULSKI is very much alive. This is not a tribute to someone who is leaving office, this is a tribute to someone who is going to be here next week, next month, and the years ahead, continuing to shatter those records as she advocates for people who don't have big lobbies, who don't have lots of political clout and can't go out and hire PR firms and well-paid and well-tailored advocates to walk the halls of the Senate. She is there for those people who don't have a voice. She has been there for those people ever since she was a community organizer in those early days in Baltimore.

When I think about trying to give public service a good name, I think about BARBARA MIKULSKI—our wonderful friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the senior Senator from the State of Maryland. We thank her for giving public service a good name. We thank her for taking on the battles and the fights she has in the past. And we are all especially grateful that at the end of this tribute she will be back at her post a few seats from me, standing for those values and standing for those causes that are so important to the well-being of this country.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I may be the last speaker of the day, but I did not want to leave the Chamber or the building without taking a moment to come to the floor, as so many of our colleagues did today, to honor one of our own, one of our favorites. Not only is she a favorite to us but I am certain beyond the shadow of a doubt that she is one of the favorite Senators ever to represent the State of Maryland. She is respected, she is beloved, and she is admired by millions of her constituents from Maryland, but I can promise you that is true of constituents in Louisiana, potentially in your home State, Madam President, and throughout the world.

Last Saturday our friend and colleague Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland became the longest serving

woman in the history of the Congress. I can only say that we have come a long way since the first woman was appointed, as I recall back in the 1920s. She was only allowed to serve 1 day and was not going to be given a paycheck but insisted that she be paid for her service. I think she might have been paid \$1 for her service.

Of course, the record of that 1 day on the floor speaks for itself. We have come a long way since that day. But BARBARA MIKULSKI was first elected to the House in 1976, and then to the Senate 10 years later. When she first entered this Chamber, there was only one other woman here, her friend and her good, strong, supportive colleague, Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican from Kansas. So a Democrat from Maryland and a Republican from Kansas, but the two of them were quite a team and BARBARA MIKULSKI speaks fondly of her days with Senator Nancy Kassebaum. Today there are 17 of us and proudly we continue that tradition of respect and bipartisanship set in large measure by two of the women we greatly admire.

The late Representative Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, who served from 1925 to 1960, had previously held the record for the longest serving woman in Congress. Breaking this record is only one of the many milestones Senator MIKULSKI has accomplished during her tenure in the Senate. But, as she would so quickly say, it is not how long you serve but how well you serve. It is not the length of your service, as she said to us so many times, but the quality of your service. We could not have a better role model—in terms of effectiveness, strength, tenacity, courage, boldness—than in our own Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

She was the first female Democrat, the first in the history of our country, to serve in both Chambers of Congress, the first female Democrat to be elected to the Senate without succeeding a husband or a father, and the first female to chair an Appropriations Committee.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee. It is one of the most powerful committees in our Congress. When I think about the fact that it took over 225 years for a woman to get the gavel on just one of the 14 subcommittees—that number has changed over the decades—but if you think about it, from the beginning of our country's history, those early days through the expansion out West, through the Civil War, post-Civil War history, the early part of the 1900s, World War I, World War II—never did a woman hold a gavel to write one budget for one committee in the entire country, until BARBARA MIKULSKI received one of those gavels.

I can tell you from personal experience serving with her on that committee, our country is a better place—in health, in welfare, our space program, our science and technology programs—because BARBARA MIKULSKI has used that gavel not to promote herself

but to promote the people she serves and the principles for which she fights.

She is well respected for her wisdom, for her tenacity and her strength. She is respected by female and male peers who serve with her. As most of my female colleagues in the Senate have also experienced, Senator MIKULSKI took me under her wing when I was first sworn in as a Senator. She extended her hand to help me in every way possible, to help me find my footing here as a Senator and to navigate through the intricacies of the Senate process. She was never too busy to hold out a helping hand or for a pat on the shoulder. She was always willing to give that extra advice and, I might say, was always willing to suggest that you might have made a mistake—try it a little different way the next time—not one to mince words, but as a good Big Sister would take us under her wing and help us out as any good Big Sister would do.

In addition to that wonderful, helpful, and thoughtful gesture that she shared with me and so many, she has been an inspiration to many women, particularly young women who have looked up to her, trying to follow in her footsteps.

I can only say that this Senate and this Congress—the people of Maryland, the people of our country and women throughout the world—have been blessed by her leadership.

What has touched me the most about watching her is the fearlessness in which she serves. She does not back down. She knows herself, she is comfortable in her own skin, and she doesn't try to be someone she is not. She is very proud of her Polish-American background, always proud to talk about the bakery her parents owned, her immigrant background, and always so willing to share from her heart as well as her mind some of what she believes.

She has been nothing but an inspiration to me and to many. I am so glad I could come to the floor today, I am so glad. I think almost every one of our colleagues has made it to the floor to honor her. When God made BARBARA MIKULSKI, he threw away the mold. I don't think there will ever be one like her. There most certainly isn't anyone in politics today who is like her. That is good, to be unique in that way. She will be long remembered. I hope she will serve here for many wonderful years to come.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate: