

as possible, no matter what the product, no matter what the industry. That has been the American way. We put seatbelts in cars and require drivers to learn what they are doing in obtaining a license. We put childproof caps on medicine bottles and dangerous household products, even if they have domestic uses. If we have taken concrete steps to ensure that children can't open a bottle of aspirin, I am baffled that we can't do more to prevent these violent deaths. Why aren't we doing everything we can to make sure that children can't kill themselves or others or injure themselves or others with firearms?

There is no lack of ideas for how to remedy this situation. President Obama recently announced that as part of the White House's anti-gun violence initiative, he will move forward to promote the development of smart gun technology which is designed to ensure that no one except the owner can fire it. Even if the gun makes it into the hands of someone who should not have it, whether a child or a criminal, the gun will not be accessible. Like other steps the President has outlined in the absence of congressional action which remains sorely needed, this smart gun initiative utilizes existing laws and resources to challenge research, innovation, and enforcement toward more effectively cutting down on gun violence. Surely, we have a consensus among the American people, among gun owners, and among anybody belonging to groups that seemingly oppose these commonsense measures that we need to do more and do it better to prevent these child deaths.

On smart guns in particular, the White House will provide guidance for enhancing safety technology and help to manufacture and test smart firearms and to facilitate their purchase by State and local governments. Working in partnership with private sector innovators and local jurisdictions, this initiative holds tremendous promise.

Even while smart guns that depend on advanced technology are being developed, existing mechanisms provide remedies as well—low-tech remedies. Trigger locks and indicators of whether a gun is loaded are in widespread use today. Studies have suggested that a third of accidental deaths could be prevented by the use of childproof safety locks and loading indicators. Our laws should encourage and even require their adoption. States around the country have also developed a variety of safe storage bills that prohibit storing firearms in places that are accessible to children. Tragic experience has shown us that, as important as it is for families to discuss guns with their children, simply admonishing them to avoid going near guns won't work, particularly when the children are too young to understand what guns are and what they can do, and, most especially, when they are playing with other children in other families' homes, where those guns may be accessible and load-

The answer is to insist that adults take responsibility. They need to be

held responsible for keeping firearms off limits, which is really the only realistic option to cut down these tragic deaths of children.

Laws requiring that kind of responsibility and accountability are supported by two-thirds of Americans. Unfortunately, the gun lobby has continually, constantly, insistently, and consistently opposed progress in these areas. Their steadfast opposition has also prevented the Consumer Product Safety Commission—which has a praiseworthy track record of success keeping children safe from hazards and ranging from lead in toys to dangerous cribs—from regulating firearms or even issuing guidance about how they could be designed more safely for children.

I have been coming to the floor of the Senate for a number of years to speak about the need for legislation to address the gun violence epidemic in this country, clearly a public health crisis. If there were a flu epidemic or another kind of contagious disease causing 30,000 deaths a year, we would have urgent, drastic action. We need to do the right thing. There are stories reported such as those last week of the unspeakable horror of a child too young to understand what is happening who encounters a gun and uses it, such as Sha'Quille, Kiyon, and Holston Cole, a 3-year-old boy with crackling energy, who would wake right before dawn. His pastor said: He loved singing "Jesus Loves Me." He put a gun to his head and, unknowingly, pulled the trigger. We can avoid that type of tragedy. We can do better, and we must act.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

REMEMBERING CONRAD BURNS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, last week the world and the Burns family lost Senator Conrad Burns. There are thousands of reasons to celebrate the life of Senator Conrad Burns, but I will only mention a few, while I hope others write down their memories to help fill the void.

He made friends instantly and could quickly find a way to relate to anyone. He had a story for every situation. That is the most effective way to make a point. I particularly enjoyed his marital advice, which he learned in Hudson, WY. His stories always had a location and a person. He said Hudson is where he spent a week one day—but it is where he bet a friend \$100 that his wife Phyllis could beat his friend's wife in a foot race. He wasn't able to talk Phyllis into racing, but fortunately, the friend must not have had any luck with his wife, either, as he didn't show up.

While Conrad was a consummate, effective Senator, his love for his faith, his family, and friends made him special. He was a man who lived by example. He was willing to share about his life to help with our lives. He mentored me and many others with his plain speaking, and timely, sort of abrupt

suggestions. He didn't waste time or words, but he always had time to help.

He also probably never realized the difference he made. I know he never realized the difference he made daily while he worked on legislation, much of which he never got credit for but was effective at getting finished.

He had a special talent for speaking and presenting that always got people's attention. For example, he was able to take difficult issues involving telecommunications and make them understandable to his colleagues and hold their interest. That is an unmatched talent. He had a unique ability to sell ideas that came from his vast, real-life experience in agriculture, radio, and especially in auctioneering. He could get you to buy into his idea, and you didn't even realize that you had bid. His experience in small business gave him the ability to make people understand the kinds of decisions small businesses have to make—how many decisions, how far in advance they had to be made, and how critical that was to how well the United States does. His staff would occasionally suggest other words or phrases he might use after the fact. He recognized and made a case for the importance of small business as the engine of our economy.

Golf gave him an outlet for his frustration and provided relaxation and an opportunity for less stressful conversations. I am not a golfer, but Conrad always made the experience enjoyable and memorable.

His ability to sell is best noted when he auctioned a special Kenai handmade quilt and got \$15,000 when the best ever previous price was \$3,000. Incidentally, he made the \$3,000 quilt sale too.

By now, Conrad has had a chance to have a heart-to-heart talk—that is the only kind of talk you could have with Conrad, and especially in Heaven—with his daughter Kate, who passed away several years ago. I picture him playing golf in Heaven, where he is learning firsthand that some of those stories about clergy playing golf are true. I bet he even has a use for a saddle again and is still keeping up on the ag futures.

Conrad, you have been missed and will be missed as your memory reminds and inspires us. Your family is in our prayers as we grieve and celebrate your life along with them.

REMEMBERING BOB BENNETT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, unfortunately, last week we also lost another former colleague, Senator Bob Bennett of Utah. There are 1,000 reasons to celebrate the life of Senator Bob Bennett, but I will only mention a few.

While he was the consummate effective Senator, his love for his faith, his family, and his friends really made him special. He was a man who lived by example. He was quiet but effective. He mentored me and many others by giving gentle, timely suggestions.