best I have ever known. In many a tense moment, his sense of humor often defused the tension and restored the spirit of comity that is so crucial in getting things done in the Senate. He knew the art of being able to disagree without being disagreeable. I wish the American people had seen more of that side of Fritz Mondale.

That was a heady and vibrant legislative era, and Fritz had a hand in virtually every major piece of civil rights, education, and childcare legislation that emerged from Congress during that period.

Another of Fritz Mondale's most remarkable and lasting achievements in the Senate was to engineer a change in the Senate's rules, to curb the abuse of filibusters in thwarting the will of clear majorities of the American people. The difficulty in passing the civil rights laws of the sixties had gradually convinced more and more Senators that the bar for cutting off debate in the Senate was set too high.

That might not sound difficult, but changing the way the Senate operates is something akin to trying to change the weather.

As a freshman Senator, I had a front seat and a bit part in Fritz's highly organized campaign to change the cloture rule. He won the change in the cloture rule, and it is not an exaggeration to point out that his efforts probably saved the Senate as we know it, and he did it without changing the Senate's fundamental character.

The Senate at its best can be the conscience of the Nation. It takes constant work and vigilance to keep our system working as it should for the betterment of our society and its people. Keeping faith with these fundamentals accounts for much of the legacy of Fritz Mondale.

It is easy for politicians to appeal to our worst instincts and to our selfishness. Political leaders serve best when they appeal to the best in us, to lift our sights, summon our will and raise us to a higher level.

Fritz Mondale's farewell message to his staff made clear that this is how he thought of himself to the end of his days: as a public servant. He represented the best of what public service means.

Through his own public service Fritz Mondale invested himself in the belief that our democracy gives each of us the opportunity to thrive, to make justice real, and to make the economy work for all and not just for some.

His legacy in the Senate deserves to be and will be an enduring one.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LOGAN SCHONART

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor a Grand Forks firefighter for receiving a national honor by the VFW. Saving lives is what firefighters are called on to do as part of their job every day. But in the case of Logan Schonart, his lifesaving act went much beyond that.

When members of the Grand Forks Fire Department heard Rick Aamot, their former batallion chief, was suffering from kidney disease and needed a new kidney, they were concerned enough to look into how they could help. Because it can take years to find a donor, they joined in the search to find one. Schonart was among those who took a test for compatibility, and his test showed he was a match. Having worked together for nearly a decade before Aamot retired, Schonert thought enough of him to step forward and offer to be his donor.

Schonert was not looking for publicity about his successful kidney donation to Aamot, but he spoke out about it to encourage others to consider doing the same if the opportunity presented itself. In recognition of his generous lifesaving act, Schonart was named the 2020 North Dakota VFW Firefighter of the Year and earlier this month was named the 2021 National VFW Firefighter of the Year. The award was presented May 7 at the Grand Forks Fire Station.

Mr. President, I congratulate Logan Schonart on this national honor recognizing a firefighter who exceeds professional expectations and demonstrates community service and professional achievement. As the 2021 National VFW Firefighter of the Year, he sets an extraordinary example for all of us demonstrating what selfless sacrifice looks like.●

TRIBUTE TO A. ED MAIRERLE

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President. Today I have the distinct honor of recognizing A. Ed Maierle of Cascade County as Montanan of the Month for his service to our country during World War II. Ed is also celebrating his 100th birthday on June 6, 2021, which is the 77th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in France.

Ed enlisted in the U.S. Navy after Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was sent to Hawaii and became an ''Avenger,'' a member of a torpedo bomber squadron stationed at Pearl Harbor. Ed also manned a 50-caliber machine gun on a PBY, a WWII seaplane. He later was stationed for 2 years as propeller specialist with a B–24 squadron on Esperitu Santo New Heberde Island. As part of this squadron, he flew daily missions, scouting for the dreaded A6M Zero Japanese fighter planes.

After the war, Ed was stationed for 1 year at Whidbey Island, WA, before returning to Montana. For two summers, Ed and his wife, Mary Alice, became the first couple in the United States to man a U.S. Forest Service fire watch lookout tower. Following this adventure, Ed embarked on a very successful career in the insurance business. He and Mary Alice were very active in community service. They both shared a strong faith in the Lord and were recognized for their 24 years of service in the Helena area nursing home ministry.

Ed epitomizes the heart of a veteran—a Montana hero—whose selfless service must not be forgotten. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank Ed for his service to our country, and I wish you a very happy birthday celebration with your family.●

TRIBUTE TO ADAM HAMMILL

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Adam Hammill and his business, Exile Burrito of Berlin, NH. Mr. Hammill, a Coast Guard veteran, had the courage to open his business after years of planning in May 2020 amid the COVID–19 pandemic.

After honorably serving our country, both in the Coast Guard and with the Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Hammill turned his passion for cooking authentic Mexican cuisine into a family business and contributed to the revitalization of Berlin's historic Main Street community by opening a restaurant, creating jobs, and offering a new variety of table fare that was previously not available within an hour of New Hampshire's northernmost city.

Opening a new business is always a challenge, but that is especially true for people like Mr. Hammill, who decided to start their business during an unprecedented global pandemic. Mr. Hammill was committed to staying open for his employees and his community by pivoting to a takeout model and implementing safety measures for both his employees and customers. As Mr. Hammill adapted to the ever changing business climate due to the pandemic, he found that as a new business, he was unable to access the critical pandemic relief funding passed by Congress. Mr. Hammill recognized the gap in support and raised this issue with me. As a result of advocacy from Mr. Hammill and other new business owners in New Hampshire, I introduced the bipartisan Recovery Startup Assistance Act with Republican Senator MIKE BRAUN of Indiana, which President Biden signed into law as part of the American Rescue Plan. Now, thanks to Mr. Hammill's advocacy, new business owners will be able to access payroll assistance through a tailored version of the employee retention tax credit.

Mr. Hammill truly represents the best of the Granite State—serving our country, showing his grit and determination to open a successful business despite unprecedented challenges, and speaking up to help other new businesses like his own. I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes next.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.