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## Remarks in Honor of Russ Sullivan

Max S. Baucus

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**Thanks for joining us today to honor our friend Russ Sullivan.**

**As many of you know, I often like to start my remarks with a famous quote.**

**Well, I struggled to find just the right set of words to encapsulate Russ and his career here in the Senate.**

**It took quite a bit of research, but I found the right words after reading something by Benjamin Franklin.**

**Franklin once said, simply. “The noblest question in the world is, ‘What good may I do in it?’”**

**Most of us come to the Senate because it is a place where, despite the many challenges, there remains a capacity to do good here. And too often people forget that.**

**But Russ Sullivan never did. Every day for 18 years, he has come to work asking, “What good can we do here?”**

**Russ' leadership proves that by working to do good and coming together to find solutions – we can get things done.**

**We passed a lot of bills during Russ' time leading my team on the Finance Committee.**

**We cut taxes for middle-class families. We protected Social Security. We passed Health Reform. We passed trade deals.**

**The list of bills is so long that we'd be here until Thursday if we went through the whole thing.**

**It's a tribute to Russ' laser-like focus on solutions. His focus made the Finance Committee more productive, and it strengthened the bills we passed.**

**Rule number one in my office is to always remember the people we serve. They're hard-working folks back home in Montana and around the country, and it's our job to help them out.**

**Russ never forgot that. He thinks of Montanans as his neighbors. And he always rolled up his sleeves and got results.**

**Russ built a very deep bench of professional staff at the Senate Finance Committee. And I know he's particularly proud of its diversity. We have people from all kinds of backgrounds on the Committee.**

**It is thanks, in part, to the thriving intern and fellows program Russ launched.**

**The program gives us an opportunity to bring in new blood and get new perspectives. It now has hundreds of alumni who got their first shot at work in Congress thanks to Russ.**

**It would be impossible to honor Russ without recognizing his extensive service off of Capitol Hill.**

**Russ has been a mentor to young people for many years. And more recently, he has been a foster parent and legal guardian to 18 young men. Thirteen of them are in college right now, and several already have degrees.**

**It's amazing to hear Russ' boys talk about what he means to them. Russ encourages them to think big about their futures and take positive steps.**

**I will never know where he found the time to serve so many people and excel in his professional career the way he has.**

**And finally, like any great staffer, Russ would not leave me without an ace replacement to take on his role.**

**I'm thrilled to have Amber Cottle as my new Staff Director. She has been a part of my team for six years, most recently as my Chief Trade Counsel.**

**Russ leaves some big shoes to fill. But Amber is more than capable. And, as she likes to say, her shoes are much more stylish. I have no doubt that she will do a great job.**

**Thanks again to everyone for being here today. And I know I am not alone in saying: thank you, Russ, for all your service and all your hard work over the years. We truly appreciate all you have done.**