

Mr. Schumer: It is such an honor for me to be here and hear the senator who has served the longest and cast the greatest number of votes heap high praise on the senator who is number three in that category. It is such an honor for every one of us, the other 98 who are here, to serve with both of them.

And I will be brief because so much has been said, but Ted Kennedy has been a beacon, he's been a mentor, he's been almost a father figure to so many of us in the Senate. He is so committed to the things he believes in, and you hear it in his speeches, and you see it even more so in the great craft with which he wields the legislative pen.

But unlike some who may love mankind in the abstract, Ted Kennedy also has a quintessential kindness and decency to the individuals of this body and to individuals who he just meets. We all see it as he walks the halls. Ted Kennedy is a special human being. He'd be a special human being in any craft or vocation because of who he is, what he knows, where he comes from.

But I think every one of us, from Senator Byrd, number one in senior citizen in the number in the senate to Senator Barrasso, count our lucky stars that we are able to serve with and know a great man like Ted Kennedy.