

which is so important to families across the country.

With all respect to the majority leader, the issue of school safety is out there. We need to ensure that we will do everything we possibly can to make sure we are not only going to have small class sizes, well-trained teachers, afterschool programs, efforts to try to help to respond to the needed repairs that are so necessary to so many schools across this country, and strong accountability provisions but make sure that, even if we are able to get those, the schools are going to be safe. We have measures we believe the Senate should address to make them safe.

If the majority is going to continue to, in a real way, filibuster, effectively, the consideration of elementary and secondary education by never bringing the matter before the Senate, they bear the responsibility of doing so. It is their responsibility. Every family in this country ought to understand that because they have the power, the authority, and the responsibility to put that before the Senate. If there is a question in terms of the relevancy or nonrelevancy of a particular amendment, the Senate can make that decision. But when we are denying families in this country the opportunity to address that and respond to it, we do a disservice to the families and to the children in this country, and, I believe, to the Senate itself.

This issue isn't going to go away. It will not go away. We may have only 3 more weeks, but we are going to continue to press it. We are going to press it all during July and all during September as well. It will not go away. Elementary and secondary education needs to be addressed. We have to take action. We owe it to the American families, and we have every intention of pursuing it.

I thank the Chair.

BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL M.
HANKINS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding officer in the United States Air Force who is an individual we have each come to know over the past two years—Brigadier General Paul M. Hankins.

As those of us who work on national security matters know, General Hankins has been serving as the Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison, where he has worked closely with us on a variety of issues of great importance to the defense of the nation. As he has done in all his previous assignments, General Hankins distinguished himself as an individual of selflessness who possesses a strong sense of service and an unflinching dedication to executing his duties to the best of his abilities.

General Hankins arrived at the job of Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison well prepared for the position. A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, he is a career personnel offi-

cer whose assignments are a mix of operational, joint, and high-level staff duties. Included among his tours are assignments at Tactical Air Command, Air Training Command, Air Combat Command, and the Air Force Personnel Center. The General has also served previously in the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison and with the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. He commanded the 6th Support Group at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and he served as chief of the Air Force Colonels' Group.

During the 106th Congress, General Hankins has been a valuable intermediary between the Congress and the Air Force on any number of vital matters. He always provided clear, concise, and timely information that was beneficial in supporting our deliberations on national security matters. Clearly, the leadership, professional abilities, experiences, and expertise of General Hankins enabled him to foster excellent working relationships that benefited the Air Force and the United States Senate.

On a personal note, I am pleased to point out that I have known General Hankins since his days as a young captain, when he first demonstrated his skills at building ties with the Legislative Branch. At the time, he was serving at Kelly Air Force Base near San Antonio when he met a young woman who was a member of my Washington staff and visiting that facility. To make a long story short, Paul Hankins and the former Donna Folsie fell in love, had a whirlwind romance, and got married approximately one-year after they began dating. Today, they have been married for fifteen years and together, they have raised two fine children, Priscilla and Clark.

The reward that the Air Force is giving General Hankins for doing a difficult and demanding job well is to give him an even more challenging assignment, solving the recruiting and retention issues facing the Air Force. Then again, given how the General has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to successfully meet and complete any assignment with which he has been tasked, it should not be surprising that the Secretary and Chief of Staff would select him to head-up this effort.

I am confident that I speak for all my colleagues when I say that we are grateful and appreciative for the hard work of General Hankins during his tenure as Deputy Director of Air Force Legislative Liaison. He is a credit to the Air Force and he can be proud of both the record of accomplishment he has created and the high regard in which he is held. We wish the General the best of luck in his new assignment and continued success in the years to come.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Col-

umbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

July 10, 1999:

Thomas Carson, 72, Houston, TX;
Vincent Coleman, 22, Irvington, NJ;
Joseph Horter, 79, Philadelphia, PA;
Gregory Jones, 29, Miami-Dade County, FL;
Ricky Lane, 38, Mesquite, TX;
Edler Monestime, 51, Miami-Dade County, FL;
Cashonda Miller, 18, Kansas City, MO;
Gene Pailin, 17, Dallas, TX;
Michael Perry, 31, Miami-Dade County, FL;

Tristan Thompson, 23, Houston, TX;
David Woods, 21, Kansas City, MO;
Unidentified male, 27, Newark, NJ;
Unidentified male, 31, Portland, OR.

In addition, Mr. President, since the Senate was not in session last week, I ask unanimous consent that the names also be printed in the RECORD of some of those who were killed by gunfire last year on the days from June 30th through July 9th.

June 30:

Edwin Cruz, 23, Chicago, IL;
Jermaine Demps, 26, Detroit, MI;
Stephen Gawel, 37, Detroit, MI;
Arron Green, 19, Detroit, MI;
Herth Hawks, 25, Charlotte, NC;
Blake King, 17, Gary, IN;
Donte A. Marshall, 22, Gary, IN;
Benjamin McCoy, 18, Gary, IN;
Edward Perry, Jr., 27, Baltimore, MD;
Sharon P. Robinson, 51, Oklahoma City, OK;

Jessie Wilburn, 48, Dallas, TX;
Unidentified male, 50, Nashville, TN.

July 1:

CRAIG Butler, 44, Philadelphia, PA;
James Hopkins, 20, Baltimore, MD;
Michael Okarma, 56, Seattle, WA;
Derrick Owens, 26, Bridgeport, CT;
Gloria Pickett, Detroit, MI;
Angel Rivera, 23, Philadelphia, PA;
Frankie Rivera, 29, Philadelphia, PA;
Mark Spann, 18, Baltimore, MD;
Anthony Stroud, 12, Houston, TX;
Unidentified male, 14, Chicago, IL.

July 2:

Antonio Baker, 21, Charlotte, NC;
Keith Carter, 34, Detroit, MI;
Eric Harvey, 14, Nashville, TN;
Tae-Dong Kim, 59, San Antonio, TX;
Ahmed Massey, 14, Rock Hill, SC;
Derren Minnick, 30, Philadelphia, PA;

James Ortiz, 39, Houston, TX;
Michael A. Smith, 25, Chicago, IL;
Unidentified male, 18, Newark, NJ.

July 3:

J.C. Addington, 81, Dallas, TX;