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Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Rouse Your power and come. We stumble and fail without Your beacon of peace to guide us. As darkness seeks the upper hand with the Orlando massacre, shine Your light of hope upon our land. Despite the pain and horror of this tragedy, empower us to continue to trust in Your infinite mercy. Hear our prayers for those who died and for those who mourn. Bring healing to those who were injured.

Lord, give our lawmakers the wisdom to understand better the causes of violence which exists in our Nation and world. Use them to bring comfort, hope, and peace in the midst of insanity. Help us to remember the warning of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he said: "We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will die together as fools."

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. ERNST thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ORLANDO ATTACK

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Orlando attack.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate will now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Orlando attack.

(Moment of silence.)

The Senate majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, above this Capitol, the American flag flies at half-staff—a symbol of national sorrow for lives taken far too soon, a symbol of national solidarity for families left behind plunged into despair.

ISIL claims that the terrorist who committed this horrific act is one of the "soldiers of the caliphate." Our intelligence community will work to establish whether this terrorist was directed or inspired by ISIL. Either way, I will call him what he really is: a coward, a murderer who claimed allegiance to a brutal group that crucifies children and beheads women.

This terrorist sought to spread fear and sadness and suffering. Yet, even amidst the horror, he couldn't destroy our common bonds of humanity. Every act of compassion, every outstretched arm to a friend, every calming word to a stranger—a response to his cruel ideology and a reminder of who we are as Americans.

Let us recognize each act of heroism that night, and let us never forget the debts we owe to first responders—the men and women who rush toward danger and put their lives on the line for victims they never met.

Local law enforcement will continue working with the FBI to determine the exact nature of this crime. We will soon find out more details. We will learn, for instance, whether this attack was ISIL directed or inspired. Whether this terrorist was in communication with ISIL in Raqqa or simply following tactics set forth in Dabiq, ISIL's online magazine, it leads to a larger point. It is no longer an open, analytical question whether the followers of ISIL and other Islamic terrorist groups will attempt to strike us here in the West—they have, and they will continue to do so.

We need to do what we can to fight back so we can prevent more of these atrocities. That is exactly why, for instance, the Senate needs to be briefed on the President's counter-ISIL campaign. Understanding the President's plan with respect to ISIL is critical, especially given that the war in Iraq and Syria will outlive the life of his administration. That is why we have been asking the administration for briefings on his strategy for a very long time. I expect this will now happen very soon.

We will also be receiving a briefing on the Orlando attack this Wednesday, but today is a day for sorrow and remembrance. We saw the face of evil this weekend, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with fellow Americans this afternoon. We grieve for the victims, and we say this to their families and to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S3813

Orlando: You are not alone. Your Nation is here with you, and we won't back down in the face of terrorism.

REMEMBERING GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, I wish to say a few words about a colleague we lost this past weekend.

George Voinovich was the oldest of six children and, until his late teens, an aspiring doctor. Then he realized he didn't get along with the scientists, so he joined the Boy Scouts. He got involved in student government, and he told his friends that one day he would become mayor and Governor.

He was right. This is the guy voters chose to turn around Cleveland after a wrenching fiscal crisis. Mayor Voinovich came to office with a simple motto: "Together We Can Do It." And together they did. Debts were paid down, jobs were added, and slowly the buckle of the Rust Belt became comeback city.

His success propelled him to the Governor's mansion, where he served two terms, and then to the U.S. Senate, where he served another two terms. Here in the Senate, he was at the forefront of a number of important policy debates. He was an advocate for more efficient and effective government. He was an advocate for an "all of the above" energy approach. And this son of Eastern European immigrants cited his work to help spearhead two rounds of NATO expansion as one of his proudest achievements. "[When NATO's Secretary General] officially announced the decision to invite Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia," he recalled, "this was truly one of the most thrilling days of my tenure as a Senator." Senator Voinovich had a storied political career that took him from Cleveland, to Columbus, to Washington, and around the world. All along, he kept himself guided by his Catholic faith and anchored by his family.

He ultimately retired to spend more time with the people who really mattered. At the top of that list was the woman who made him whole. If you don't think storybook romances can start at a Cleveland Young Republicans Club, then you didn't know George and Janet Voinovich. George and Janet were best friends, they were political confidantes, and they were deeply in love. Here in Washington, you could find them strolling to the Capitol for work or to St. Joe's for mass. When Janet came to visit the office, George would greet her with a kiss and a hug. When the Voinoviches flew back to Cleveland, which was most weekends, they would hold hands and say a prayer across the aisle to prepare for takeoff. And when it was wheels down, Janet would put Ohio's senior Senator to work on their modest home in Cleveland. They purchased that house in the 1970s in the same working-class neigh-

borhood where George was raised. They spent the rest of their lives together in the same house, but they never got around to installing an air-conditioner. "Too expensive," George said.

George Voinovich was known for many things in his decades of public service. He was honest, he was plainspoken, he was loyal to those who worked for him, and, yes, he was frugal. Janet may not have appreciated it when the heat waves hit, but these are qualities that served him well in office.

When asked about his legacy, Senator Voinovich said he just wanted to know he had touched people's lives and made things better. The mark of his impact across his city and across his State is clear enough to see. There is the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University, the Voinovich Trade Center in Columbus, the Voinovich atrium at Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the George V. Voinovich Bridge. The bridge named for a man known for building bridges of his own went dark in his honor last night.

The city of Cleveland, the State of Ohio, and the citizens of our country have lost an outstanding public servant. Many of us have lost a good friend. The Senate marks his passing with sorrow. We will keep Janet and the rest of the Voinovich family in our thoughts.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. REID. Madam President, before I start my remarks on the subject of the day, I wish to speak about another subject of the day, as Senator MCCONNELL has indicated, George Voinovich. He was a fine man. He died yesterday morning. He was a colleague and a friend. He passed away at his home in Cleveland, which Senator MCCONNELL talked about. He was one of the most experienced public servants with whom I have served. His career in public service began 53 years ago as Ohio's assistant attorney general. From there, he served as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, county auditor, county commissioner, Lieutenant Governor, mayor of Cleveland, Governor of Ohio, and then in 1999 he brought his wealth of experience to the U.S. Senate.

Senator Voinovich was well regarded for his preparation and hard work. He was courageous. George was one of the few Senate Republicans to speak out against the unpaid-for Bush tax cuts because he thought they were wrong. He questioned the strategy of the war in Iraq, which he also thought was wrong. George Voinovich was right on both of those issues, and the other Republicans were wrong.

Senator Voinovich voted to repeal don't ask, don't tell and bucked the rest of his party by voting for background checks on all firearm purchases at gun shows. Again, he was right, and his colleagues were wrong.

Today the Senate mourns the Voinovich family.

I send my personal condolences to George's wife of 54 years, Janet; their children, George, Betsy, and Peter; and their seven grandchildren. He was a great Senator. He will be missed by his loved ones, the people of Ohio, and the United States.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

Mr. REID. Madam President, everyone is in a state of shock and sadness today, following the worst mass shooting in modern American history.

The facts continue to develop—I had a long conversation with the FBI this morning—but we do know this much. A shooter pledging allegiance to ISIS opened fire at an LGBT locality in Orlando, FL, killing 49 people and leaving dozens seriously injured. This was an act of terror in every sense of the word. This was an attack on the LGBT community and all of America.

My heart goes out to the victims, their families, especially those who were killed and wounded, and to the many first responders who were on the scene where one police officer was wounded.

I hope every Member of the House and Senate had time for quiet reflection yesterday to ask what we could have done to prevent this tragedy. I had time to think about it. I am heart-sick. I am basically sick by our inaction. It is shameful that the U.S. Senate has done nothing—nothing—to stop these mass shootings. Is this what we want for America? I don't think so.

Do we want to live in a country where someone who has sworn allegiance to ISIS can walk into a store, buy assault weapons and explosives, and murder dozens of Americans in a club or at a school? I don't think we do. Is that a country where we want to live? Because that is the country where we live now, thanks to the National Rifle Association and their cowardly supporters in Congress.

Last December, the senior Senator from California proposed legislation that would prevent FBI terror suspects from purchasing firearms and explosives. All but one Republican voted against the Feinstein amendment. That means that as of today, FBI terror suspects can walk into a gun store and legally purchase assault weapons and explosives. It is beyond me how these same Republicans go home knowing they voted to let FBI terror suspects continue to buy assault weapons.

Senate Republicans have voted against expanding background checks, limits on the size of ammunition clips, and the assault weapons ban. How can these same Republicans campaign for reelection in good conscience, knowing

they voted to block every sensible bill to address gun violence? Not some of them, all of them.

For example, how can the junior Senator from Florida—who all of a sudden has an interest in running for reelection—how can he speak of running for office again when he voted to let potential terrorists buy assault weapons and explosives? That is how he voted. The junior Senator has voted against every gun safety measure. He was quoted as saying: Well, with what happened yesterday, I might reconsider. He better reconsider his gun votes. He voted against background checks, assault weapons ban, and against legislation limiting the size of ammunition clips.

I ask again: Is this what we want for America? Mass shooting after mass shooting, and each new attack, it seems, is worse than the previous one.

We still have much to learn about the Orlando shooting, but we know one thing for sure. Congress is failing to do anything to prevent these mass killings—anything. Why? Because of Republican obstruction. Because of Republican obstruction, we are doing nothing. We are failing every one of the people killed on Sunday, their families, the whole State of Florida—the whole country. We are failing the families. We are failing everyone who has died in these mass shootings—and there are thousands of them—and those who have lost loved ones to mass shootings—thousands of them, I repeat; the injured, tens of thousands.

As President Obama said yesterday, “To actively do nothing is a decision as well.” And my Republican colleagues have made that decision: doing nothing.

It is time again to try to stop the plague of gun violence. We have a responsibility as lawmakers to do what we can to prevent these shootings, to enact commonsense reforms—nothing radical—that have proven to stop these attacks and save lives.

We should start by closing the loophole that allows terrorists to legally purchase weapons and explosives. Remember, everyone, we voted on this. Everyone in this Chamber should be able to agree that a suspected terrorist shouldn't have guns. Is it more than common sense? I don't think so.

We should do something to expand background checks, ensuring that terror suspects and criminals don't slip through the cracks, and we should do something to limit the size of weapon magazines and clips. There is no reason for gun stores to sell these clips that are that big, magazines or drums designed for the mass killing of human beings. That is what they are made for—no other purpose. People don't hunt with them.

Our Nation can no longer ignore the fact that every day Americans are being gunned down in cold blood. We can no longer ignore the will of the people. We shouldn't, at least. We can no longer ignore the will of the people.

The overwhelming majority of voters support these proposals. According to a

December poll by one of the foremost polling agencies in America, nearly 90 percent of Americans are in favor of expanded background checks. It doesn't matter what State you go to. This was a nationwide poll. In Nevada, Massachusetts, Iowa—it doesn't matter where you go. More than 80 percent of Americans want to close so-called terror loopholes, preventing people on terror watch lists from purchasing firearms. I see my friend from Florida behind me. Of course they care, as much as anyone, if not more, today.

Yet, in spite of the public's demand for action, Senate Republicans continue to cower—cower—before the NRA and the Gun Owners of America. The NRA is bad—really bad—but Gun Owners of America is even worse than bad. These two organizations are competing, seeing just how extreme they can be in pushing for more guns and fewer protections. And I know, after the statement I am making today, they will send out these fundraising calls: REID is trying to take away our guns. Send us some money.

These two organizations are competing to see how extreme they can be in pushing for more guns and fewer protections. Congressional Republicans are content just to go along. Republicans are so terrified of the extreme right that they refuse to pass legislation supported by the vast majority of their own constituents. The NRA and the Gun Owners of America mean more to them than the people they represent.

Do you know what terrifies the American people? It is not the NRA. It is not the Gun Owners of America. Mass shootings scare the American people. Innocent victims being gunned down at nightclubs and holiday parties and schools and movie theaters, that is what scares the American people.

Republicans need to find the backbone to stand up to groups like the NRA and Gun Owners of America. Senate Republicans are stalling important mental health legislation because they are afraid to talk about gun safety measures. Not only are they stalling, but Senate Republicans—led by the assistant Republican leader—are even threatening to include a provision that weakens the FBI's current background check system—which isn't much, to be honest with you—and to weaken it more would be speaking volumes.

We don't need to hear any more of the gun lobby's talking points about how more guns are the answer to what is going on in America or hiring security guards will solve our Nation's scourge of gun violence. The Pulse nightclub in Orlando had security, and there was reportedly an armed, off-duty police officer on the scene, but even that didn't prevent this tragedy.

Instead of pushing for more guns, maybe it is time to make it harder for terrorists and criminals to get guns. It is time for Congress to do something to stop the mass slaughter that is being carried out in our communities. How

else can we describe it? Are 50 dead people—49 plus the killer—49 dead people—is that enough to get our attention? The 50-odd who were injured, and somebody may be paralyzed, is that enough to get our attention?

It is time for Congress to do something—something—to stop this mass slaughter that is being carried out in our communities. Going forward, Democrats are going to continue to support and continue to push these solutions to our Nation's gun violence epidemic, and we are going to, as soon as we can, force a vote on this terror loophole. We are going to do this as soon as possible. There is no excuse for allowing suspected terrorists to buy guns.

There is much we can do but not if Republicans aren't serious about addressing these problems, and historically it has been proven they do not care.

I hope Republicans will find the courage, like George Voinovich, to help us pass meaningful legislation to protect the American people. By the way, George Voinovich was a good Republican.

Madam President, will the Chair announce the business for the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2943, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2943) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McCain amendment No. 4607, to amend the provision on share-in-savings contracts.

Reed (for Reid) amendment No. 4603 (to amendment No. 4607), to change the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I have just returned from the command center of the emergency operations center, a temporary one that has been set up in the middle of South Orange Avenue, very close to the Pulse nightclub, not far from the hospital where so many of the victims have been taken, where 9 of the victims died in the care of the doctors, and where there are up to 50 people, some of whom are still fighting for their lives.

Needless to say, Orlando is shocked. We didn't know a place that sometimes

is called the happiest place on Earth could be one of the saddest places on Earth. Indeed, the morning's Orlando Sentinel, the entire front page is dedicated to a statement by the paper entitled "Our Community Will Heal." Will our community heal? Well, certainly, in what we see with the long lines snaking around the block at the blood donation center, where it is literally going around what would be the length of 2 blocks, and where there are people standing in the hot Sun with umbrellas to donate blood, that says something about how the community will heal. Indeed, when we had our office in Orlando opened on Sunday, the kinds of calls expressing grief and shock and just disbelief, along with the messages of comfort, has been quite a contrast to the 95 percent of the hundreds and hundreds of calls the Orlando office has received today. Ninety-five percent of those calls have been hateful.

What does that say about us as a nation? Will we, in fact, heal? What does it say about us as a nation deep inside? Have we lost the teachings in almost all the major religions—clearly in the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament and clearly in the New Testament, as well as in the Koran. You will recognize these words if I say it in the old English: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Putting it in modern English, it means to treat others as you would want to be treated. Yet what we find is that in our society today there are folks who want to divide instead of unify, and this killer is a good example.

I have spent two days with the FBI. I have been on the phone. I have talked to the Secretary of Homeland Security. I have talked to our intelligence community. It is this Senator's opinion that once the dots are completely connected—and they are being rapidly connected. The FBI is doing a great job. They are the lead in Orlando.

By the way, talking about something good, what about the cooperation and coordination, which has been almost seamless, among local, State, and Federal Government officials, all represented down there in the command center, all being represented as a number of us went in front of the assembled cameras? It seems that is a good thing. That is unity. That is how we do things in America.

Yet, as the dots are being connected, we will find out that, yes, this shooter was ISIS-inspired—and that is a whole set of issues—and how are we going to protect ourselves in the future? But we are also going to find that this shooter was inspired by hatred, and we are going to find that this hatred was directed, as his father already said in interviews, toward the gay community.

So here again, we have another terrible tragedy. I have had a number of calls from my fellow Senators. One of those calls came from RICHARD BLUMENTHAL. He is from Connecticut. He has reason to be sensitive about this because of the Sandy Hook Ele-

mentary School shooting, where 20 children and some 6 adults were gunned down needlessly. Maybe that was a mental case. Maybe part of this one in Orlando is a mental case. But it is driven by hatred, maybe through ISIS, a hatred of America and of a free society being willing to be able to speak what you want without fear of persecution, or maybe it is a hatred about a group of people. It is exactly the opposite of what is taught in all of the Scriptures.

So as we heal in Orlando, it will take a while. You can imagine those families of the ones who have been lost. You can imagine the families down in the Orlando Health hospital right now, grieving, hoping, and praying that those victims fighting for their lives are going to make it.

So America, we are going to have to dig down deep and find out who we really are. You know, I really know who we are. We are a people with a character that is compassionate, generous, kind, and respectful. We as Americans are ladies and gentlemen. We can express ourselves as has been the tradition on the floor of this Senate in the heat of political debate. We can sharply differ, but we can be respectful of the other fellow's point of view. That is America, and until we finally come to the conclusion and insist that this aberrant behavior be stopped—until that happens—we will still be grieving.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts. Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to echo the sentiments of the Senator from Florida. His State has suffered an unspeakable tragedy. It is something that unfortunately brings together two terrible biases—one against the LGBT community and the other a religiously based radical attack inspired by ISIS at that nightclub. They all came together. To the Senator and to everyone from Florida, our deepest, deepest sympathies go to you.

It was, of course, something that was understood in Massachusetts. He mentioned the Tsarnaev brothers as an inspiration to him. They struck on Patriots Day in 2013 in the United States. Mohamed Atta and the other nine hijackers were in Boston when they hijacked the two planes from Logan International Airport. So we know those people are out there. We know that their hate-filled message is intended to kill innocent Americans, and we saw it once again. Unfortunately, the target was a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

But for us, I think we have to learn from this. This man had been investigated as a terrorist suspect, and yet we are blocked—the Senator from Florida and I and others—from passing a law that would prevent anyone on a terror watch list from buying a gun in these United States. It is not against the law. The National Rifle Association has enough power here on the floor of

the Senate to prohibit someone who is on a terror watch list from buying guns in the United States of America. We need another vote on that issue here in the Senate. We need to give the protections to the American people for them to know that someone on a terror watch list cannot buy a gun in the United States of America.

We also have to ban these military-style assault weapons, like the AR-15, which are the guns of choice for those who seek to inflict mass casualties on civilians. These are not weapons that belong on the streets of our country. They belong in combat overseas, not in our communities. They don't belong in Newtown, they don't belong in San Bernardino, and they don't belong in Orlando. They don't belong in our streets or in our schools or in a civilized society, yet we cannot ban these weapons from being sold in the United States of America.

We have to prevent any known or suspected terrorist from buying firearms, and we have to make it impossible, as well, for them to buy these assault weapons. This is our challenge now.

Once again, we are warned. Once again, we are told what the weapon of choice is. Once again, we know that they are going to target us if we make it easy for them to access these weapons. How many warnings do we need?

The NRA really should stand for "not relevant anymore" in American politics. They should not control the agenda here on the floor of the Senate. We should be able to ban people on the terror watch list from buying guns. We should be able to ban these assault weapons from being sold at all inside of our country. The Senate leadership should stop banning a vote here on the Senate floor on ensuring that we do the research at the CDC on this relationship between mental health and the use of guns within our society.

The bill that I have introduced calls for \$10 million a year for the next 6 years. We can't even get the money to research gun violence in the United States of America.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can change. We can learn these lessons, but we can't wait any longer to put those commonsense gun laws on the books. We cannot wait any longer to make our streets safer.

So let's close the gun show loophole that allows anyone to go into one of these Kmart's full of killing machines and buy a gun without a background check. Let's close the loophole that allows domestic abusers to buy guns. Let's close the loophole that allows straw purchasers to buy guns and flood our streets with them. Let's repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act and take away the gun manufacturers' immunity from civil liability. PLCAA should stand for "protecting lives, creating arms accountability," not protecting these arms manufacturers from liability if these guns are used to kill innocent people in our society.

So in the coming days and weeks, you can be assured that the National Rifle Association will be opposed to even these limited commonsense gun measures. The NRA has had a stranglehold over Congress for far too long. It is time to end its reign of power. It is time to end its viselike grip on the safety and security of our Nation. Those in Congress who do not support these commonsense measures are siding with those forces that make it easier for these massacres to happen. That is the bottom line of where we are. Now is the time to stand up for the families of Columbine, of Newtown, of Aurora, of Chattanooga, of Charleston, of San Bernardino, and now of Orlando, and of all of the cities across our country, which are saying: Enough is enough.

I was so proud on Saturday to march in the Boston Gay Pride Parade. It was a joyous occasion where love, community, and social justice were all celebrated with a passion and a real sense of progress. But as I woke up the next morning, I saw again how an individual armed with guns and fueled by extremist ideology can fuel violence and terror.

We are a nation of hope, not hatred. After this tragedy, after this deplorable attack, let's denounce hate in all of its forms. Let's stand with the LGBT community and raise our voices with dignity, equality, and love. Let's say no to the rhetoric of hate that demonizes our friends and neighbors because of their faith, sexual orientation, or because of their country of origin. Let's recommit to justice and moving progress forward.

The American people are begging, pleading for this institution to enact commonsense gun safety measures. My hope is that the Senate can succeed where it has recently failed and muster the political will and courage to deliver badly needed reform of our gun laws. Let's work together to do this and to help prevent yet another mass shooting in our country.

I yield back.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, it is good to see the Presiding Officer this afternoon.

This past weekend, Saturday, my wife and I went to New York City at the invitation of one of our sons. We visited the 9/11 Memorial in New York, literally erected on the site of the World Trade Center. I must confess it was emotionally charging, very saddening, and at the same time uplifting and inspiring.

I never imagined that within the space of less than 24 hours we would see dozens of our young have their lives taken from them.

I remember walking through the 9/11 Memorial—and for those who have not been, I urge you to go. For those who have, you probably remember going through parts of the memorial and literally seeing the faces of 3,000 men, women, and some children whose lives

were snuffed out that day some 15 years ago. Every one of them had moms and dads. They had grandparents. A number of them had children, spouses, brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews, and nieces. Those families struggle even today with their loss.

The young people who died Saturday night, Sunday morning in a nightclub in Orlando, like those many folks whose faces we saw on Saturday, also have moms and dads, grandmoms, granddads, brothers, sisters, and cousins. Their families are mourning today just like others did 15 years ago.

What I want to do is preface my remarks by reaching out across the miles to the families who are mourning, trying to deal with their losses, and let them know that we want to take you in our loving embrace. To the best of our ability, we also want to make sure we continue to take steps in this country to ensure we reduce the likelihood that these kinds of attacks are going to occur and that when they do, if they do, we are better prepared to deal with them.

The killer, the man who took the lives of 49 people, demonstrated an act of hatred—in part, an act of terrorism but really an act of hatred. The question is, What do we do about it? Some would have us close our borders, the ability to come here even on a short-term basis: If you happen to be Muslim, we are going to keep you out. That is exactly what ISIS would like for us to do. There are 3.3 million Muslims in this country. The idea of somehow turning them against the rest of us, that is the kind of thing happening in some parts of Europe.

Unlike Europe, we are a country where we accept the people who come to our shores. We accept them. When you were a stranger in my land, did you take me in? For us, for years, for decades, and for a couple of centuries, the answer has been yes. That doesn't mean we shouldn't very carefully check and test the backgrounds of the people who come here to make sure they are who they say they are, that they are not on a terrorist watch list. We have a bunch of those. We want to make sure our agencies and our terrorist watch lists are coordinated. We want to make sure our intelligence agencies are in close communication with one another.

Part of the goal of ISIS is to make this a clash between the United States and the Muslim population here, 3.3 million people, and around the world. That is not what we should do. We should be smarter than that.

One of the things we need to do is to continue the work that was begun from last year—I have said it often, I am going to say it again—to degrade and destroy those who would do us harm. Those who would do us enormous harm are trying to set up a caliphate. They are somehow using their religion, bastardizing their religion, and making it say things it doesn't even begin to say.

What we need to do is make sure they get no further. The progress that

has been made in terms of rolling them back was with the help of a coalition that includes 15 nations—16 nations. We are taking back a lot of the land and about to—I hope—take Fallujah and Mosul and continue there.

When ISIS wannabes pop up in other countries, the idea is to work with our coalition in the countries that ISIS is trying to get a foothold in and make sure they are not successful. So it is a little like Whac-a-Mole—but it is not a game—and it is one we want to make sure they don't get a chance to get started there.

If you look at the amount of money—ISIS used to make a lot of money selling oil. They take over oil refineries and oilfields, and they sell the oil on the black market. We have greatly diminished their ability to do that and greatly diminished their ability to make money. In some cases, we have figured out where they are keeping their cash stored, and we have gone in and destroyed literally hundreds of millions of dollars in their currency that they were harboring.

There are a number of people coming from around the world to go to that part of the world—Iraq, Syria—who want to be ISIS volunteers. It is greatly diminished from what it was. It is down from 2,000 a month this time maybe last year to something that is just a fraction of that.

In the United States not that long ago, early this year, maybe six people a month were going from the United States to the Middle East to be part of ISIS, and they are down to maybe one per month. It is still one too many, but we are headed in the right direction.

The people who are being radicalized here by ISIS, ISIS is not sending people here to radicalize them. ISIS is basically trying to do this through social media, to use the Internet, and they are pretty good at it, but one of the things that will make them not so effective is once we demonstrate—and I think we are on our way to doing that—that ISIS is a losing team. The people who are apparently claiming credit for it—or the killer in this case who killed all of our folks over the weekend, he was looking for a winning team. He is not a person who had a lot of wins in his life, and he wanted to be a part of a winning team. Our challenge is to make sure that anybody who is looking for a winning team or thinks they can, through radicalization, attacks, and terrorism—we need to make sure they know they are barking up the wrong tree.

ISIS is a losing team. One of the ways we can do that is—the Presiding Officer along with me and a number of others on the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs have been all over this issue for years. It led to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. We continue to stay right on this issue, and we will probably be doing that for as long as any of us are in the Senate.

Part of what we should be doing, aside from degrading and destroying ISIS—if we are smart, one of the things we need to do is reach out to the Muslim community in this country, unlike what has happened in places in Europe, where you have a lot of Muslim folks who are all segregated. They are not part of the culture. They are not welcomed so much in those countries. One of the things about us in America is we are a melting pot. We have been a melting pot forever. When I was a stranger in your land, did you take me in? For years, we said the answer is yes.

The Department of Homeland Security has asked for authorization to be able to create our community partnership, to reach out to Muslim communities across America, to meet with parents, with young people, not so young people, face the community, and make it clear they are a part of this country, make sure they say to their own people, their own young people: Don't do this. Don't do what this guy did over the weekend in Orlando. That is not part of our religion. It is not part of their religion. Don't go there.

The third thing we can do and ought to be doing is to strengthen our defenses at home.

We had an active shooter situation for hours into the wee hours of Saturday evening to Sunday morning, an active shooter situation. It is not the first active shooter situation we have faced. They are not easy to deal with.

One of the things the Department of Homeland Security can do, is doing, and ought to be doing more of, if given the resources, is doing active shooter training in police agencies all over the United States. If they ever face a situation such as this, they know what to do and they are able to be effective and save lives.

The other thing I would mention in terms of resources, as the Presiding Officer knows, we put a fair amount of resources toward a fusion center. Sometimes people used to call them confusion centers, but actually they are a fusion center. They give the ability to State and local law enforcement agencies to work with the Feds to better ensure that information gathered locally works its way up the channel, up through the chain of command, to be shared nationally with other States and with the Federal Government, and to make sure the converse is true, to the extent that we gather useful information at the national level, international level, that we bring it down and we funnel it back into individual States through fusion centers so they act on that actionable intelligence.

We need to work with energy in this regard. We need to work with a sense of urgency. We need to make sure, as we go through the appropriations process in the Senate in the days and weeks ahead, that we are putting resources, financial resources, where they need to go.

A number of folks have asked me in interviews yesterday and today: What

should we be doing about gun control? How does all of this relate to gun control? The answer is, I am not sure how this is going to affect the way we view guns. I believe in the Second Amendment right. I am sure the Presiding Officer does, a former Army colonel, retired colonel. I am a retired Navy captain, a Vietnam veteran. My dad was a chief petty officer in World War II and served for a long time as a chief petty officer in the Reserves after that. My dad was a hunter. He came from a family of hunters and taught me to be a hunter and a fisherman. One of the proudest possessions I own is a shotgun my grandfather gave me before he died. When I was in the Navy, I used to go back on leave from Southeast Asia, go visit my parents near Clearwater, FL, and stay in a guest bedroom. In the guest bedroom, under my bed where I slept, were guns. I opened the closet in the guestroom for my clothes, and there were guns. My father, in addition to being a hunter, actually bought and sold guns. He would basically sell them to people he knew. He felt they were not people who were mentally unstable or people who were felons, but he believed in the Second Amendment right. My dad also believed in common sense.

My dad is now deceased, but if he were alive and he heard that people who are on terrorism watch lists can literally buy weapons, including assault weapons, automatic weapons, he would say: That doesn't make any sense. If he found out we could go to a gun show, and a person who is mentally unstable, has a history of mental illness, and maybe someone who is a convicted felon could actually walk into a gun show and go to a federally registered gun dealer, be denied the ability to purchase an assault weapon, and then go to the next table over with someone who is not a federally registered gun dealer and purchase the same weapon they had just been denied, in terms of what makes sense and doesn't make sense to my dad and frankly to me—his son—those situations don't make a whole lot of sense. Those are areas we ought to agree on.

One of our colleagues, as the Presiding Officer knows, Senator ENZI from Wyoming, likes to talk about the 80–20 rule. It is a great rule. It says there is about 80 percent of the stuff we agree on and maybe 20 percent of an issue we don't agree on. What we should do is focus on the 80 percent we agree on. My hope is—most Americans get it, in terms of making sure that folks who are on the terrorist watch list don't have access to buy weapons. They get it. I think they also get the idea that this gun show loophole is something that ought to be closed as well.

I close by saying, in a sense, this is a test of our character as a nation. I said earlier our tradition has always been that we welcome people from disparate places, in some cases people fleeing oppression, lack of freedom, lack of religious opportunities and freedom of

worship. That is the way we operate as a country.

You don't open and read the Constitution—it doesn't say Matthew 25 because we decided we are not going to establish a religion here. If we did, Matthew 25 says: When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was thirsty, did you give me to drink? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When I was a stranger in your land, did you take me in?

I think we have a moral obligation to the least of these, including those who are fleeing oppression in other places looking for an opportunity for a new life. I think we have a moral obligation to welcome them, but we have a moral obligation to those who live here, to make sure that as we welcome people from other places, we do not imperil them by those who arrive from other shores.

The last thing I would say is, we need the kind of leadership in this body that seeks to really do what it says right over the Presiding Officer's head, where the Presiding Officer is sitting. The Latin words—I don't know a lot of Latin words but “*e pluribus unum*”—from many, one. Those are words that we would be wise to remember from this day as we go forward.

I think that is pretty much what I wanted to say. As this week goes on, I ask that my colleagues and I find out as much as we can, learn as much as we can, find out what went right and what went wrong, and do more of what went right. And at the end of the day, let's make sure we are true to the values on which this country was built.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, first of all, let me thank our colleague for his words. I certainly join him in mourning the horrible, tragic loss of life this weekend in Orlando. Certainly I am committed, along with all our colleagues, to fighting terror wherever it exists and whomever it targets. This was absolutely horrible.

Mr. President, I also rise today in support of a really important piece of bipartisan legislation that I have been working on with Senator SHAHEEN. I have introduced it to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs—two vital small business programs in the Federal Government. We have an opportunity to accomplish this—to fully reauthorize and improve these programs—in the context of this Defense authorization bill that is on the floor now. I am very hopeful we are going to do that as part of a managers' package to the bill.

These two programs—the Small Business Innovation Research and the Small Business Technology Transfer Programs—are really vital and useful to the success of small businesses directly responsible for creating thousands, tens of thousands of new jobs.

By funding small businesses and entrepreneurs in the critical early stages

of R&D, these programs allow firms to drive the innovation sector of the economy with new ideas and technologies. Very rarely have government programs had such a clear and measurable, positive and stimulating effect on the economy.

SBIR and STTR are also crucial to Federal agencies as they solve many of our biggest science and technology challenges. Giving small, innovative firms access to already appropriated Federal R&D funding is a win-win—a win for the small business sector and just as importantly a win for the taxpayer and those agencies.

These programs exist to foster innovation, to facilitate public-private partnerships, to give firms the funding they need to help 11 Federal departments and agencies meet their R&D needs. These programs not only create jobs, but they also lead to a path for commercialization for many of these businesses, which is absolutely key to their success.

These programs have been front and center in improving our Nation's capacity to innovate. Over the course of the SBIR Program history from 1982 to 2014—the last year for which we have numbers—Federal agencies have made more than 152,000 SBIR awards to small businesses to develop innovative technologies, and the total dollar amount awarded—again out of existing R&D budgets—is \$42 billion.

In 2014 alone, SBIR gave nearly 5,500 Phase I and Phase II awards worth about \$2.2 billion, and the SBA is currently reporting an average of 5,000 awards per year. These awards are directly responsible for some of the most popular technologies that are available to the public today.

For instance, through an SBIR award from the Air Force, we have created a technology known as LASIK, originally to correct vision for pilots, but that is a widely used technology to correct vision for all Americans. That was an SBIR success.

Military armor has been a regular success of the SBIR Programs. ArmorWorks is a great example. That created over 350,000 top-of-the-line body armor plates worn by U.S. service men and women in the United States.

Liftware Spoon—a spoon that stabilizes hand tremors for patients with Parkinson's disease and essential tremor—again is a clear, identifiable, and important SBIR success story.

HydroMARK decreases patient discomfort with a minimally invasive breast biopsy procedure. With the HydroMARK, a mammogram is no longer necessary and the surgeon or radiologist can use an ultrasound to locate the tumor. This is a huge innovation that has dramatically improved thousands of women's lives and, again, directly out of SBIR.

Bioseal reduces lung collapse rates after lung biopsies.

iRobot's Roomba is something I can relate to. It is moving around at home when I am there on the weekend. This

is the popular autonomous robotic vacuum cleaner that has reached major commercial success, selling over 10 million units. That is directly out of SBIR.

These programs we are talking about, which have been so successful, are set to expire September 30 of 2017. As many of my colleagues can attest, it was a tumultuous process to complete the last reauthorization, so we are starting early now so we don't go through that tumultuous process again. Back then—the last reauthorization—participating agencies and firms had to endure a process that took over 3 years and 14 short-term extensions. In a bipartisan effort with Senator SHAHEEN, we have been working for the last year to avoid all that and to do this ahead of time so we don't have all of that tumult and uncertainty, which saps the effectiveness of the program for a significant period of time.

Reauthorizing these programs this year will ensure stability, foster an environment of innovative entrepreneurship, and avoid that uncertainty by directing more than \$200 billion annually to this R&D funding to the Nation's small business firms.

As chair of the Senate's Small Business Committee, I have made this a real priority. Senator SHAHEEN, as ranking member, has done the same. So I thank all of our committee members who are solidly behind this effort. I also thank so many other Members of the Senate who have been cooperative.

In the context of this Defense bill, we have cleared our reauthorization amendment with the Senate Committee on Armed Services, and I want to specifically thank Senators MCCAIN and REED for their leadership. We have cleared it with the Commerce Committee because agencies under the jurisdiction of that committee are involved. We have cleared it with the HELP Committee. They have the same tangential relationship. We are the authorizing committee, but some agencies involved are under their jurisdiction. We have cleared it with everyone in sight, so that means we have a real opportunity to have this in the managers' package—which it is, as I speak—and to pass it through the Defense bill as a full reauthorization.

I am also proud to share that not only will our reauthorization annually direct more than \$2 billion of Federal R&D to small firms that are most likely to create jobs and commercialize their projects, but it will also establish the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program to help low-participation States attract R&D funding for their businesses.

All of this reauthorization is a true consensus effort, so I am grateful to the more than 50 organizations that strongly support it—among them the Small Business Technology Council, the National Small Business Association and the Defense Alliance, and 47 more. It is a true consensus effort. They all support the effort, as does the

leadership of SAS; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and the Commerce Committee. So it is an important opportunity that we shouldn't let fall through our grasp.

Again, I want to stress that reauthorizing this program is an effective way to meet national needs while jump-starting entrepreneurs, growing our economy, and creating jobs.

With that, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this consensus amendment and help ensure that small businesses across the country can operate with long-term certainty and stability, which this amendment will provide.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, the atrocity that occurred this past weekend in Orlando, FL, was an attack on every American, and my deepest condolences are with the victims and the families of this appalling attack. I am grateful for our law enforcement and the first responders who bravely put their lives on the line to save others.

This attack—the deadliest in American history since 9/11—was carried out by a gunman who pledged allegiance to ISIS. There are 49 families who received phone calls this weekend—phone calls we all hope we never receive. There are 49 families who are arranging for funerals this week. They never dreamed they would be put in this position—the tragedy, the sorrow of the mothers, the fathers, the aunts, the uncles, the brothers, the sisters, the grandparents, the cousins, and friends who will all be attending funerals this week.

Additionally, there are more than 50 families dealing with family members who were injured, some gravely, who are fighting for their lives as I speak.

Montana is a long ways away from Orlando, but I can tell you that last night across our State there were vigils in Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, and Billings, MT. We stand united with Orlando.

This threat of ISIS is continuing to grow each and every day. We need a strong strategy to destroy the growing threat of Islamic extremism—Islamic extremism on our soil as well. President Obama, what is that strategy?

We need to aggressively go after radical jihadists who seek to destroy our way of life and disturb the peace in our communities. The senseless hate of ISIS and radical Islam will not defeat us but, rather, strengthen our resolve and commitment to freedom.

We need to remember that this was an act of terror on American soil, that this is a threat we face from radical Islam and ISIS, and that the worst response would be to politicize this and use this tragedy to restrict our constitutional rights and freedoms.

We cannot allow dangerous terrorists to hide in our communities. We need to seek them out and ensure they aren't

able to inflict harm on our neighbors, our friends, and our families.

May God comfort those who have been profoundly affected by this tragedy, and may God protect our men and women who are defending our country both here and abroad every day. We are a strong nation, and together we will protect our country and ensure victory over the terrorists who want to take away our very way of life here in America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the junior Senator from Montana. I appreciate his coming to the floor today.

I rise today with a heavy heart. Since I first heard the horrible news about the senseless act of terrorism in Orlando, the victims, the partners, and the families have been at the center of my thoughts and prayers. But thoughts and prayers are not enough. It is long past time for the Senate to come together and have a conversation about what steps need to be taken to put an end to this violence and hatred. We cannot continue to be crippled by inaction. The Senate needs to come together to strengthen our national security.

After attacks like Orlando, we hear folks say “Never again,” but actions really do speak louder than words. It is time that we work together to try to prevent these senseless acts of terror and violence. That conversation begins with our national security and what needs to be done to keep our families and our communities safe.

There are actions we can take right now to bolster our national security. There is no question that we must pass legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of terrorists. We absolutely do need to secure our borders. And we need to continue to crack down on insider threats by reforming our security clearance process.

Intolerance and hate have no place in this country, and as elected leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure that every American can live their life each day free from fear.

VETERANS FIRST ACT

Mr. President, this Nation has made a sacred promise to the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces. These folks answered a call to duty, and they made selfless sacrifices to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. These heroes stood up for us, and now it is time for the Senate to stand up for them.

Two years ago, when reports surfaced that veterans were dying while waiting to receive care at the VA, the Senate acted swiftly, and we passed legislation to build the capacity of the VA to better meet the needs of veterans now and into the future. Also included in that bill was the Veterans Choice Program, which allowed more veterans to seek care in their own community when

they were unable to get timely care from the VA. Unfortunately, the Choice Program is broken. We have heard this from veterans and community leaders, from veteran service organizations, from Republicans and from Democrats.

The intent of the Choice Program was a good one—to get veterans care more quickly—but the rollout has been disastrous, causing far too many veterans to wait even longer for an appointment. But because of the leadership of Chairman ISAKSON and Ranking Member BLUMENTHAL, the Veterans’ Affairs Committee came together in May and approved the Veterans First Act, which includes provisions that I and Senator BURR authored to fix the Choice Program. It also includes critical provisions to hold the VA accountable, increase veterans access to care both inside and outside the VA, and better deliver on the commitment this Nation has made to the folks who have served.

Since this bill was unanimously passed out of committee back on May 16, it has fallen victim to politics as usual, and a combination of anonymous holds and the majority leader’s decision not to bring it to the floor have put this bipartisan piece of legislation, this good piece of legislation for our veterans, in limbo. And now there are only 21 days left until the Senate is set to recess for nearly 2 months.

I am concerned that the clock is running out and that this bipartisan bill will fall victim to the Senate’s inaction. We cannot let business as usual here in Washington, DC, derail critically needed reforms. Veterans will not and should not accept excuses for the Senate not acting.

This is a good bill. It is a bill that gives the VA the flexibility to work directly with community providers to connect veterans to the care they need so that the VA does not need to work through a middleman. This bill also provides the budget flexibility necessary to ensure veterans are routed to care in a manner that makes the most sense for them. It imposes stricter rules to ensure the VA is reimbursing community providers in a more timely manner. It also includes critical provisions that I helped author to ensure the VA is able to more quickly fill leadership vacancies at VA medical facilities.

That is why today I am calling on the Senate to put politics aside, put personal agendas aside, and get this bill to the floor for debate and for an up-or-down vote. The millions of veterans who are still being forced to wait more than 30 days to schedule an appointment deserve that vote. The veterans who are still kept on long wait lists deserve that vote. And the folks who have sacrificed so much to protect and defend this country deserve that vote.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, early in the morning this past Sunday, the worst mass shooting in America’s history took place. Forty-nine people were killed and 53 more wounded at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, FL. We don’t know all the details, but we know that this was an act of terror and that it was an act of hate directed at the LGBT community.

I want to begin by expressing my condolences to the victims, to their families and loved ones, and to the city of Orlando. I thank the first responders who ran toward the sound of gunfire, who literally risked their lives to save the lives of others.

I express my support and solidarity with the LGBT community in Orlando and throughout the Nation. Many of the patrons at the Pulse nightclub were members of that community. They were simply enjoying a fun night out at an establishment that welcomed them.

June is Pride Month. It is a month where we should take pride in the advances we have made toward equality since Stonewall in 1969. The LGBT movement has come a long way in protecting Americans’ right to love the person they love. Yet this weekend’s shooting is a sobering reminder that this community still remains a target of vicious hatred.

As we mourn those we lost in Orlando, we must not lose our pride in what the LGBT movement has accomplished. We must stand in solidarity with our fellow LGBT Americans who will not let the hate of a few overcome the love of an entire community.

The shooter who perpetrated this horrific attack has been identified as a 29-year-old U.S. citizen who was living in St. Lucie County, FL. The shooter reportedly entered the nightclub at about 2 a.m. on Sunday morning, armed with an AR-15 assault rifle and a handgun. He opened fire on the patrons and engaged in a shoot-out with an off-duty Orlando police officer who was working security at the nightclub. The shooter apparently held a number of hostages in the nightclub for several hours, until a SWAT team swarmed the building, killing the gunman at about 5 a.m.

Reportedly, the shooter called 911 to wait to pledge allegiance to ISIS, even while the attack was under way. We do not yet know when and how this gunman may have been radicalized. Reportedly, he had been the subject of at least two FBI investigations in recent years regarding possible ties to terrorist groups. The shooter reportedly bought the two guns he used on Sunday within the last several days. He was able to buy these guns legally, despite the past

investigations into his potential terrorist ties.

Let's be clear. In America, our laws currently allow dangerous people to buy guns. That has to change. I respect the Second Amendment to our Constitution. That amendment protects the responsible use of guns for lawful purposes. But the Supreme Court has made it clear that it is constitutional to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. Our lawmakers are simply not doing enough to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Right now, the FBI cannot stop a known or suspected terrorist from walking into a gunshop and walking out with an AR-15, an assault weapon. The GAO found that between 2004 and 2014, suspected terrorists bought guns lawfully at least 2,043 times from American gun dealers.

What are we thinking? Last December, when the Senate took up this measure, we failed on the floor of the Senate to pass legislation to close this terror gap loophole. The gap remains open, and we have failed to close the gaping loopholes in our own background check system that allow terrorists, criminals, and others to get guns without a background check from gun shows or over the Internet. Why do we make it so easy for people that we suspect of being involved in terrorism to buy guns—assault weapons, military-style guns?

Last December, this Senate failed again to pass Manchin-Toomey, a bill that would close many of these loopholes. This was a bipartisan bill, yet we couldn't pass it on the floor of the Senate.

We know our weak gun laws make us vulnerable, but we have not acted to strengthen them. In fact, almost every week we see efforts in Congress to further weaken gun laws in America.

Hundreds of men, women, and children are shot every day in America, and on average 91 of those victims die. It is an epidemic of gun violence that has devastated families and communities in every State. No community has been hit harder than the city of Chicago—the city I am honored to represent and the city I love and a city where this past weekend, 44 people were shot, 7 of them fatally. More than 1,650 people have been shot so far this year in Chicago, with at least 282 victims dying from their wounds.

The tragedy of Orlando is that it all happened in a few hours. The tragedy of gun violence in Chicago is that it happens almost every day.

Across the Nation, we have seen Americans gunned down in nightclubs, elementary schools, churches, temples, movie theaters, health care clinics, malls, colleges, and our homes and our neighborhoods.

We need to wake up and act to reduce this violence. Thoughts and prayers are important but not sufficient. We need votes and laws to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. Can't we agree on that? The responsibility lies

right here. We have that responsibility and that opportunity.

This weekend's act of hate and terror in Orlando has been condemned by Americans of all backgrounds and all faiths, and Orlando has received an extraordinary outpouring of support and solidarity from all across the United States and around the world.

We do stand united against ISIS and its efforts to promote mass shootings and acts of terror. We stand in support of the LGBT community—the latest target of this terrorist attack. This solidarity is important. Our efforts to defeat ISIS and keep America safe from hate and terror are strengthened when our Nation and the world stand united. We must not let the actions of a hateful few divide us and prevent us from working together to combat this evil.

We also must not let this act of hate and terror lead to hostility against the Muslim community in America. The American Muslim community has stood with all Americans in condemning Sunday's mass shooting. American Muslim leaders immediately spoke out and condemned the attack. Muslim Floridians donated blood and money to help the victims and survivors.

In the coming days, there will be those who say we should respond to this attack by discriminating against innocent American Muslims and immigrants. But the solution to hate is not more hate; it is unity.

In Orlando, they understand this. In a news conference after the shooting, a representative of Equality Florida recognized the unity between the LGBT and Muslim communities, stating that his organization “stands in solidarity with the Muslim and Islamic community in opposition to the intolerance, discrimination, and hate crimes that both of our communities experience.”

That was a statement by the representative of Equality Florida about Muslims in Florida itself. It is unfortunate that the presumptive Republican Presidential nominee, Donald Trump, does not understand this. In response to the Orlando attack, Mr. Trump wasted no time calling again for a ban on all Muslims immigrating to the United States.

General Michael Hayden is no softy, no liberal. He was Director of the CIA, and the National Security Agency under President George W. Bush. Here is what General Hayden said of Mr. Trump's response to the attack: “Prejudiced, simplistic, and frankly inaccurate.” General Hayden has pointed out that banning all Muslim immigration would not make us safer and actually helps ISIS recruit those who hate the United States.

As we mourn those we have lost, we must also roll up our sleeves and get to work. We must pursue smart, common-sense reforms to keep dangerous, hateful people from getting their hands on dangerous weapons. America just suffered its deadliest mass shooting event

in history—worse than San Bernardino, worse than Newtown, worse than Virginia Tech. If there was ever a time for Congress to do its job and keep guns out of dangerous hands, this is it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, first and foremost, I wish to send my heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones in Orlando, FL, in Orange County, yesterday in a tragic event. I want to express my great appreciation to the people of Orlando who volunteered their blood, their families, and their houses to help support those victims; to the EMTs who rushed into harm's way to save lives—and they did save lives—and to the hospital trauma team that did an amazing job of responding instantaneously to a tragedy beyond anybody's comprehension.

We are very sad in America today by the terrible attack that took place and those who would perpetrate it. I, for one, am going to roll up my sleeves and work to see to it that wherever radical Islamic terrorism is, I want to root it out and I want to destroy it. You cannot accept or tolerate what happened yesterday, and we must redouble our effort to follow it wherever it leads us and to wipe it out and to eradicate it. I, as one Senator, will promise to do that.

COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS
BILL

Mr. President, I am one of those guys who usually is very supportive of going to cloture and going on motions to proceed on just about anything because I think the Senate is the most deliberative body in the world and we ought to do that. But tomorrow, shortly after 11 o'clock, I am going to vote no on the motion to proceed to the Commerce-Justice-Science bill. I want to memorialize why on the floor of the Senate tonight so everybody is clear and understands.

There is report language in the Commerce-Justice-Science portion of the appropriations bill that directly interjects this Congress, this Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives into a tristate water compact misunderstanding among the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida that has gone on for 27 years.

I know that is of no interest to the Presiding Officer from Indiana, nor to the Senator who just preceded me from Chicago, IL, nor anybody else, but what is of interest to you would be any time that Congress decided to interject its nose in your business. Tomorrow, if the motion to proceed brings it to the floor, it will be injecting 100 Senators into an issue among 6 Senators. That is not the right way to do it. In fact, the tristate water compact, which has been off and on in negotiations for 26 years,

is at its closest point of being finally decided in a court of law. The judge and the special master recently notified us that they will hear the final case on the tristate water compact in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida this November. So the issue is going to be resolved.

We have no place as a Senate or as a Congress to inject ourselves into a case that is pending litigation in the courts between States on issues that are purely theirs—except for the fact that over the years, for nefarious reasons and unpleasant reasons, sometimes Congress has from time to time thwarted water control manuals, thwarted the authority of the Corps of Engineers from doing its job, all over litigation of the ACF and AC basins in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

I want to bring a resolution. I want all the States to have an adequate supply of water. I want us to be cooperative and work together, and I want us to do it the right way. The right way is to not interject ourselves at the last minute in an appropriations bill with nefarious language that can't be touched that is in the report language but, instead, to pull that language out, as I will try to do with an amendment on the floor. If I am unsuccessful, I will try to do an amendment that counteracts that language, to see to it that Congress does not stick its nose in a place that it does not belong.

I like to be cooperative. I like to move forward. I don't want to slow down progress. But I was sent here to represent 10.4 million people in the State of Georgia and, by golly, I am going to do it. If somebody is trying to inject themselves beyond the appropriate place, I am going to do everything I can to stop them. The way I will start that tomorrow will be to vote no on the motion to proceed to go to the Commerce-Justice-Science bill.

I yield back my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about the horror of Orlando, and I know so many Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle have been thinking about those who lost their lives and talking about this horror that once again has impacted everyone from one end of America to the other.

I won't speak for a long time tonight other than to say—which I think is

plainly evident from the evidence we have right now at this point in the investigation—that this was first an act of terror and it was also an act of hate. I think both are significant because of the impact they have on our country over time.

I think there is a strong belief that the first thing we must do is to express not just condolence but solidarity with the people of Orlando, the people of Florida, and to do what we can to help them and help those communities and families who lost so much in such a short timeframe. At last count, there are 50 dead and more than 50 injured. There will be some who say that beyond that, there is not much we can do, that we should just stay where we are now and not change the laws. I don't agree with that, and I won't dwell on a long list tonight, but I hope at some point we can begin to reengage on a number of issues and at least have a full debate and also a series of votes on a couple of measures which I think are common sense. These are issues that we voted on I believe most recently in 2013, and I was hoping we would vote on them after that.

One of the votes had to do with a ban on military-style weapons. I think it would be appropriate to at least debate and vote on it. I would vote in favor of it, and some would not. We should certainly have a vote on the size of the clips, or the magazines. To put it plainly, how many bullets should one person have in their possession or as part of the weapon at any one time? Should someone be allowed to go into any kind of establishment and start shooting, thereby releasing rounds and rounds of ammunition and hundreds and hundreds of bullets? Should that be permitted to anyone at any time or anywhere? I don't think so.

If someone is on the terror watch list and that person has been deemed so dangerous that we have labeled him or her as a terrorist or potential terrorist and he or she can't get on an airplane, certainly that person should not have a weapon. That seems to make sense. If they are too dangerous to get on a plane because of their tendency to commit acts of violence or engage in terror, they shouldn't be able to have a firearm. I think it would make sense to have a debate and vote on that issue.

Another issue is background checks. That was one measure where there was a lot of consensus or substantial bipartisan support, but it didn't pass in 2013. I hope we can have another vote on that.

If a person is not able to get through a background check due to a whole variety of reasons, such as having a criminal record or otherwise, you have to ask yourself, should someone with a criminal record have access to a firearm?

Mr. President, today I have introduced the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, S. 3053. That is a new proposal to do what some States have done already. I think it is essential to add this to the

other pieces of legislation that have been talked about and some that I just itemized.

This bill, first of all, would define what a misdemeanor hate crime is because the intent of the bill is to say: If you are convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, you shouldn't have access to a firearm. This category of misdemeanors would be under Federal, State, or tribal law that are found to be motivated, at least in part, by hate or bias against the victim's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In essence, these eight categories are what some would call, to use the more legal jargon, the protected classes. That is how we would define a misdemeanor hate crime.

This bill, upon passage, would keep firearms out of the hands of those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes. It would prohibit the purchase, possession, or shipment of a firearm by anyone convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime. That is the basics of the bill. Obviously it doesn't have direct application to what happened in Orlando; however, upon further investigation, we may find that it does. Part of the reason for this is because there has been a rise not only in hate crimes but in hate groups across the country, with hundreds more in just the last couple of years, and literally thousands more, if not more, hate crimes have been committed.

Those issues I mentioned are among the many things we need to address. I also think that in addition to taking these steps on commonsense gun measures, we have to make sure law enforcement has the resources it needs to take on the challenge of not just criminal activity but increasingly almost terroristic activity within our communities—the so-called lone wolf terrorist, the homegrown terrorist, the individual who is self-radicalized, which seems to be part of the horror of Orlando. We have to make sure that if law enforcement professionals tell us they need more money in the COPS Program, we should appropriate more money. If the law enforcement professionals say: Please fund that program that has worked for so many years, such as the Byrne Justice assistance grants, we should make sure they have those appropriations. If you are tough on law enforcement—that is nice to say, but it is better to prove it by how you vote.

Finally, of course, we have to continue to focus on what is a major component, of course, of Orlando and San Bernardino and so many other places, and that is violent extremism in communities across the country. We have to make sure we are working with local law enforcement and Federal authorities not only to give them the resources they need but to be able to coordinate and do our best to unearth plots before they transpire and to be able to take this fight directly to a terrorist, many of whom are in our midst here in the United States.

We have a lot to do. It is not simply a question of what we do on a series of commonsense gun measures, it is also a question of what we are going to do to help our law enforcement and to work as hard as we can in a bipartisan way to debate and vote on measures that will keep our country safe and protect our homeland.

Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more of a rise in these individuals who are, as I mentioned before, self-radicalized and sometimes categorized as a lone wolf. We have to make sure we are doing everything possible to identify them, apprehend them, and make sure we are thwarting these plots ahead of time. It may not work in every instance, but we have to take every measure possible. I think part of that is doing what I hope we can do as a matter of preventive steps. If someone is engaging in hate and taking action against others, even if it only rises to the level of a misdemeanor, they shouldn't have access to a firearm. We want to nip this in the bud, stop it long before that hate continues and develops into the kind of hate that leads to a much greater and more lethal attack on Americans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ROLAND "KEN" TOWERY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a great American veteran, public servant, leader, and Texan, Mr. Roland "Ken" Towery. Ken passed away on May 4, 2016, at the age of 93. Ken personified integrity, sacrifice, and hard work as a member of the Greatest Generation. He will be sorely missed by the family he leaves behind, those whose lives he touched, and a grateful Nation.

Ken was born in 1923 in Smithville, MS, but quickly moved to Texas a year later. Ken grew up on his family's farm in Willacy County. When Ken was 14, they moved to farm land on the Medina River near San Antonio. The day Ken turned 18, he enlisted in the Army. He was later asked about why he enlisted, and he said, "I wanted to see the world and signed up asking for service as far away from home as the Army could

send me." A few short months later, Ken sailed to the Philippines on the USS *Republic*. He received basic and advanced individual training on Corregidor Island in Manila Bay; he served as a crew member for the 75mm anti-aircraft guns with Battery C, 60th Coast Artillery.

In the initial months of America's involvement in World War II, the 60th Coast Artillery joined with the 59th Coast Artillery to defend the Bataan Peninsula, blocking the Japanese Navy from Manila Bay. Ken and his fellow soldiers fought gallantly; many, including Ken, were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received in defense of the island. In May of 1942, the island fell to the Japanese, and Ken was captured.

For the duration of World War II, Ken was a prisoner of war in Manchuria. As a POW, he worked in the MKK factory making equipment to be exported. Ken eventually acquired an extra duty serving prisoners their meals, more commonly referred to as "slop," filling a role referred to as the "chow dipper." Serving as a chow dipper was often a short-lived and precarious position because they were subject to fights and disagreements from prisoners who were unhappy about their meager rations. This changed when Ken became the chow dipper. He employed the lesson that his parents taught him to "do unto others." He remedied disagreements by first filling his own bowl and placing it beside the serving bucket. Any man who was unsatisfied with his serving was invited to replace his serving with Ken's. This small action demonstrated Ken's dedication to fairness and firmly established his role as a leader amongst his fellow prisoners.

In 1945, Ken returned home, where he faced a steep recovery from multiple parasitic diseases common amongst former prisoners of war. Additionally, Ken returned with a serious case of tuberculosis, which forced him to spend the bulk of the next decade in isolation wards of TB sanitariums. As he battled TB, Ken studied at Southwest Texas Junior College and was later admitted to Texas A&M University to study soil biology. It was during this time that Ken met his future wife, Louise Ida Cook, from Knippa, TX.

After their wedding, Ken continued college until another bout with tuberculosis occurred and ended his formal education. After his hospitalization, Ken cleaned poultry houses to make a living. In 1950, the *Cuero Record*, Ken's local newspaper, announced they were looking for a reporter. Ken applied for the position but lacked one critical skill: the ability to use a typewriter. Louise taught Ken to type, helping him to land the job.

Ken's hard work led him to investigate allegations regarding businessmen who were abusing the State's veteran's land program and State officials who chose to ignore the issue. This later became known as the Veteran's

Land Scandal. As a result of his research and reporting, 20 people were indicted, and the Texas land commissioner was removed from office and imprisoned. In 1955, Ken was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work.

Soon after, Ken, Louise, and their two children moved to Austin, where Ken worked as a political reporter for the *Austin American Statesman*. His insight into politics was noticed by recently elected U.S. Senator John Tower, who asked Ken to serve as his press secretary. He quickly climbed the ladder and became Senator Tower's chief of staff.

After leaving Tower's staff, Ken remained influential in Republican politics for more than 20 years, during which time he managed several reelection campaigns, including Richard Nixon's 1968 campaign in Texas.

Ken's political impacts extended beyond the United States. He also served the U.S. Information Agency as deputy director and assistant director. While there, he played a major behind-the-scenes role in the fight against communism and the demise of the Soviet Union. He said the years spent at USIA "were among the most gratifying 'employed' years of my life . . . I could go home at night feeling like I had struck a blow for liberty, for mankind . . . There was the feeling that our labors were directed towards the interest of the nation as a whole."

Ken then returned to Texas, where he started a political consulting business in 1976. In 1981, President Regan appointed him to the board of directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and he served as the elected chairman of the board twice. Ken eventually returned to the newspaper business in the 1990s when he purchased three small town publications: The Floyd County *Hesperian*, the Lockney *Beacon*, and the Crosby County *News-Chronicle*.

Of all his many accomplishments, this humble man will rest in the Texas State Cemetery beneath the headstone that reads "The Chow Dipper." Ken Towery's story of perseverance, work ethic, and fortitude should inspire us all. I offer my thanks and appreciation to this great and humble man who epitomizes the American spirit.

HOUSE PASSAGE OF S. 337, THE FOIA IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Freedom of Information Act, our Nation's premier transparency law, is on the eve of its 50th anniversary, July 4, 2016. It is fitting that FOIA shares its birthday with our Republic itself. Our democracy is built upon the principle that a government of, by, and for the people cannot be one that is hidden from them. Today we recommit ourselves to this ideal by sending to the President the FOIA Improvement Act. This bill, which I coauthored with Senator CORNYN, ushers in the most significant reforms to FOIA since its enactment 50

years ago. With the House's unanimous passage of our legislation today, we ensure FOIA will remain strong for another 50 years.

First and foremost, the FOIA Improvement Act codifies a "presumption of openness," putting the force of law behind the notion that sunshine, not secrecy, is the default setting of our government. This is the same language President Obama laid out in his historic memorandum in 2009 and which now applies to government agencies. This policy was first put into place by President Bill Clinton, but then it was reversed by President George W. Bush. President Obama reinstated it as one of his first acts in office. However, self-imposed executive orders provide the executive branch overly-broad latitude in adhering to its letter and spirit. We must remember, the executive branch uniquely conducts much of its business behind closed doors, which is why we need strong legislation ensuring accountability and transparency. By codifying the "presumption of openness," we ensure that all future administrations operate under the presumption that government information belongs in the hands of the people.

Furthermore, our bill provides the Office of Government Information Services—OGIS—an office Senator CORNYN and I created in the OPEN Government Act of 2007—additional authority to operate more independently and communicate freely with Congress how FOIA is operating and what improvements can be made. And to bring FOIA into the digital age, our bill creates a singular online portal through which the American public can submit FOIA requests and requires the proactive online disclosure of frequently requested records.

The reforms in our bill enjoy broad bipartisan support. The Senate has unanimously voted for our FOIA Improvement Act twice. Last Congress, the Democratically controlled Senate unanimously passed this bill, but Republican leaders in the House failed to bring it up. Senator CORNYN and I promptly reintroduced our legislation, which passed the Senate earlier this year, and finally, the House has followed suit. The legislative branch has now spoken in one voice, reaffirming its commitment to the American people's right to know what their government is doing. I urge President Obama to swiftly sign our bill into law in time for FOIA's 50th anniversary.

The FOIA Improvement Act is undoubtedly a legislative achievement worth celebrating. However, we must not rest on our laurels. Just as we are about to bring more sunshine into the halls of power with this new law, the National Defense Authorization Act, S. 2943, being considered by the Senate, threatens to cast a shadow over our efforts.

Without ever consulting the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has exclusive jurisdiction over FOIA, the Senate Armed Services Committee included

provisions in the NDAA that directly undermine central pillars of FOIA. One particularly egregious provision is so broadly drafted that it could create a wholesale carveout of the Department of Defense from our Nation's transparency and accountability regime. If enacted into law, this could empower the Pentagon to withhold a nearly limitless amount of information from the American public. For example, the Pentagon could withhold the legal justifications for drone strikes against U.S. citizens, preventing the American people from knowing the legal basis upon which their government can employ lethal force against them. It could withhold from disclosure documents memorializing civilian killings by U.S. forces, depriving the American people of knowledge about the human cost of wars fought in their name. And if enacted, the Pentagon could withhold information about sexual assaults in the military, masking the true extent of sexual violence against soldiers who risk their lives defending our country. I will continue to oppose inclusion of this provision in the final NDAA.

Fifty years from now, on FOIA's centennial anniversary, the next generation will look back to this moment. They will gauge our commitment to creating a government that is open to its people. With today's passage of the bipartisan FOIA Improvement Act, we have chosen to let the sunshine in.

CBO COST ESTIMATE—S. 2943

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, on June 10, 2016, the Congressional Budget Office released a detailed cost estimate for S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. This measure was reported by the Senate Committee on Armed Services on May 18, 2016, and includes provisions that affect authorizations for appropriations, revenues, and direct spending. As chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget, I will use this estimate for scorekeeping and budget enforcement purposes. Senators and their staff can access the full estimate on CBO's website, www.cbo.gov/publication/51683.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a summary of CBO's cost estimate be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

S. 2943—NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

(June 10, 2016)

Summary: S. 2943 would authorize appropriations totaling an estimated \$603.9 billion for the military functions of the Department of Defense (DoD), for certain activities of the Department of Energy (DOE), and for other purposes. In addition, S. 2943 would prescribe personnel strengths for each active-duty and selected-reserve component of the U.S. armed forces. CBO estimates that appropriation of the authorized amounts would result in outlays of \$587.8 billion over the 2017–2021 period.

Of the amount authorized for 2017, \$544.1 billion—if appropriated—would count against that year's defense cap set in the Budget Control Act (BCA), as amended. Another \$0.2 billion authorized for nondefense programs would count against the non-defense cap and an additional \$58.9 billion authorized and designated for overseas contingency operations would not be constrained by caps.

The bill also contains provisions that would affect the costs of defense programs funded through discretionary appropriations in 2018 and future years. Those provisions mainly would affect force structure, compensation and benefits, the military health system, and various procurement programs. CBO has analyzed the costs of a select number of those provisions and estimates that they would, on a net basis, decrease the cost of those programs relative to current law by about \$14 billion over the 2018–2021 period. The net costs of those provisions in 2018 and beyond are not included in the total amount of outlays mentioned above because funding for those activities would be covered by specific authorizations in future years.

In addition, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by \$10.9 billion over the 2017–2026 period. S. 2943 would have an insignificant effect on revenues. Because enacting the bill would affect direct spending and revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2943 would increase net direct spending and on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

S. 2943 contains intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). CBO estimates that the aggregate costs of the mandates would fall below the annual thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$77 million and \$154 million in 2016, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

TRIBUTE TO JACK LIVINGSTON

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Jack Livingston, a key member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staff for more than 12 years. Jack's lifelong commitment to our national security began when he was just a young man and heeded the call to service when he joined the Civil Air Patrol. Some years later, he joined the Navy, followed by more than 7 years of distinguished service at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His memory of being on the floor of the Strategic Information and Operations Center at the FBI in the hours after 9/11, when so many others in Washington, DC, had hurried to safety, remained with him every day and became his driver and, in turn, a motivator for younger staff.

Jack subsequently joined the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence where he has served for the last 13 years. As general counsel for the majority and minority, Jack not only helped shape national policy on key intelligence matters, but he served as a personal and professional mentor to dozens of committee and congressional staff, on both sides of the aisle. From the all-nighters before mark-up, reviewing amendments and writing and

proofing countless sets of talking points, to somehow always assigning himself a larger “equal” share of the work, Jack has led by example. His meticulous nature and sound reasoning were essential as the committee produced reports or majority or minority views on significant matters of national security, from Iraq WMD to interrogation and detention. It did not matter how busy Jack was because he would always find time to talk through an intelligence issue with a colleague, proofread a floor statement, or just listen. Many staff knocked on his open door and were greeted without hesitation by a kind word or invitation to sit down and discuss a question more in-depth.

Many of Jack’s colleagues have had the privilege of working with him for years. Ask them what words describe Jack best, and you will likely hear “integrity,” “honesty,” “impeccable character,” “devoted family man,” and “all-around good guy”—and unique: while an ardent Indiana University and Bobby Knight fan, his California roots easily showed themselves as he called his colleagues “dude” during debates. Jack was often kidded about catching a joke; the deadpan expression on his face was usually belied by a twinkle in his eye that said the joke was really on you.

Jack is loyal to the core, and he understood well the importance of providing accurate information and sound advice to members of the committee, a point on which I am sure my predecessors, Senators Chambliss, Bond, and ROBERTS, would agree. Jack had the ability, all too rare in Congress, to put politics aside and focus on the mission and on what was best for the Nation. His colleagues knew they could engage in spirited but never personal debates. Jack always stuck to the facts and his arguments were based on logic, not emotion. As a result, members of the committee—Republican, Democrat, and Independent—sought his counsel on a wide range of issues.

As the minority and majority general counsel, Jack enjoyed some major successes in national security legislation. From the Protect America Act to the FISA Amendments Act, Jack worked tirelessly to secure the best result for our terrorist surveillance capabilities. Jack was passionate about this issue and understood it better than pretty much anyone else. The committee’s FISA audit was a hallmark of Jack’s early tenure on the committee and provided the impetus for many improvements in the conduct of national security investigations and for later legislation in which Jack played significant roles. Jack led the committee’s passage of the Cyber Information Sharing Act of 2015, the product of years of bipartisan work and compromise on an issue that has taken on new urgency with the increase in cyber threats, and of numerous intelligence authorization acts that secured critical authorities and capabilities for our intelligence professionals.

It is often said that behind every great man, there is a greater woman, and in Jack’s case, that is certainly true—and I have no doubt Jack would agree. Jack’s tireless service was made possible, not just because of his own character, but because he was confident in the love and support of his wife, Julie, and their children, John, James, and Sarah. For their own sacrifices and for their willingness to share Jack with the committee, we are indebted to them.

Jack has earned our respect and admiration, and we will miss his sound counsel and friendship, but his legacy will remain a part of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS X. MCCORMACK

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dennis X. McCormack for his tireless contributions to bettering the lives of Colorado’s veterans.

Dennis could have relaxed after retiring. He had earned it after 26 years in the military as an Army chief warrant officer, CW5, helicopter pilot from Fort Bragg’s XVIII Airborne Corps and 12 more years in the private sector.

Instead, Dennis was committed to service. Before retirement, he was giving his time, expertise, and passion to veterans, military families, and soldiers facing deployment and the difficulties of day-to-day life.

Every day, the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces make incalculable contributions to our society. Dennis recognized a responsibility to support those contributions and made his own.

He served with many organizations such as the Suicide Prevention Partnership of the Pikes Peak Region, LifeQuest Transitions, the Home Front Cares, Inc., Sentinels of Freedom—Colorado Springs Chapter, and South East Armed Forces YMCA, Colorado Springs.

He served as a peer mentor for Colorado’s El Paso County Veterans Trauma Court, a program he helped found. He also served in the first group of AW2 advocates for the Army Wounded Warrior Program and was an organizer of the Colorado injured military support group.

I had the distinct honor of meeting Dennis in 2011, and I have worked with him in the intervening years. His deep dedication to veterans was clear, and that passion inspires my work on behalf of our Nation’s veterans.

He has received the American Red Cross Hometown Hero Community Service Award, the President’s Award from Homefront Cares, and the Joe Henjum “Service Above Self” Award from the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs. These speak to his integrity, character, and commitment to the community.

Dennis demonstrates the best of Colorado, and his tireless service has helped make our State one of the best places for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families to live. I add my recognition of his service, knowing that his work contributes to a stronger and a safer nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JON YUSPA

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a Nevadan who has gone above and beyond in his endeavors for our veteran community, Jon Yuspa. Jon formed and continues to lead Honor Flight Nevada, a non-profit organization committed to honoring the brave men and women who so valiantly defended our freedom.

In 2011, Jon formed Honor Flight Nevada to honor Nevada’s World War II veterans and transport them to Washington, DC, to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Since its formation, Honor Flight Nevada has expanded its trips to include Korean and Vietnam veteran visits. Over the past 5 years, Jon and the Honor Flight Nevada team have raised over \$500,000 to transport more than 200 U.S. veterans to Washington, DC. The trips are completely funded and paid for at no cost to the veterans through private donations to Honor Flight Nevada. From the National World War II Memorial, to the Korean War Veterans Memorial, to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, all the way to Arlington National Cemetery, every veteran has the chance to see the memorials that stand as a testimony to the great sacrifices they have made.

Even more remarkable, Honor Flight Nevada is the only Honor Flight organization to offer trips specifically for Vietnam veterans to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. To witness these veterans honor their lost comrades at their memorials is truly a special experience. During the trip, veterans are showered with gratitude and applause in airports, on bus rides, at hotels, and en route to their memorials, all executed through the coordination and planning from the Honor Flight Nevada team. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone working on behalf of our veterans with Honor Flight Nevada, including those with Southwest Airlines and the Reno-Tahoe International Airport who have contributed so much to this organization. It is through the hard work and collaboration of this entire team that these trips are possible.

Recently, Jon’s work has been acknowledged with two prestigious awards. In April, Jon received the President’s Award from Southwest Airlines, as well as the 2016 Jefferson Award for Nevada from the Jefferson Awards Foundation. These accolades are a tremendous honor, and without a doubt, Jon’s work warrants this and so much more in recognition. I have personally attended a veterans send-off at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport

and have also met our heroes in our Nation's Capital as they observed the World War II Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. I can attest to the positive impact that accompanies their journey. This truly is a life-changing experience for those who deserve only the greatest gratitude for their service.

I most recently had the opportunity to see Jon's work firsthand in May at the internment of Bob Wheeler at Arlington National Cemetery. Bob was an important member of the Nevada family and will never be forgotten. Jon's work in bringing some of the Nevada family to honor Bob's sacrifice was admirable. No words can adequately thank Jon for all that he has done.

Jon has truly impacted the lives of heroes across the State of Nevada. Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Jon on his achievements and in recognizing the entire Honor Flight Nevada family for their work. Honor Flight Nevada's mission is noble, and I thank everyone for their commitment and compassion to Nevada's veterans. I wish Jon and all of the Honor Flight Nevada team the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING ANNIE MILLER'S SON'S SWAMP & MARSH TOUR

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, known as the "Sportsman's Paradise," Louisiana is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, and millions of folks come from across the country and the world to see our unique ecosystems in person. The tourism industry plays a major role in our State's economy, bringing in billions of dollars each year. Much of that positive growth is due to our local small businesses, including this week's Small Business of the Week, Annie Miller's Son's Swamp & Marsh Tour of Houma, LA.

Annie and Eddie Miller founded Annie Miller's Swamp and Marsh Tours in 1979, which became Louisiana's very first swamp-boat company. Known as Alligator Annie, Annie and Eddie escorted tourists through the Louisiana swamps, showing them everything from the beautiful marshlands to backwater canals and even allowing guests to feed wild alligators. Annie took her role as Louisiana's trailblazer of nature-based tourism very seriously and made sure each guest was well-educated in the effects of coastal erosion by the time the tour had concluded. Her efforts over the years led to the local government preserving sections of the marsh and bayous in Terrebonne Parish for the local alligators.

Over the years, Annie Miller's Swamp and Marsh Tours experienced major successes, and it wasn't long before Annie and Eddie's son Jimmy Bonvillain joined the family business. Upon Annie's passing in 2004, Jimmy renamed the family business to Annie Miller's Son's Swamp & Marsh Tour and continues to welcome visitors year-round.

Louisiana's small businesses in the tourism industry are constantly finding new and entertaining ways to attract visitors to our State. With its focus on both the beauty and importance of preserving our wildlife and natural resources, Annie Miller's Son's Swamp & Marsh Tour certainly found its successful hook decades ago. Congratulations to Annie Miller's Son's Swamp & Marsh Tour for being selected as this week's Small Business of the Week.●

LOUISIANA LEMONADE DAY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I believe it is important for America's small businesses to actively support the entrepreneurial efforts of the next generation of small business owners. As part of the Louisiana Lemonade Day initiative on Saturday, April 30, 2016, I would like to recognize the thousands of Louisiana children who will launch and operate their own small business lemonade stands as the combined Small Business of the Week.

This year over 50,000 children across the State of Louisiana will learn firsthand what is necessary to start and run a small business. The Louisiana Lemonade Day takes children through a 14-step process from the dream of starting a small business all the way to launching one. It focuses on life lessons of learning how to save, spend, budget, and, most importantly, contribute to their local communities. This year marks the sixth anniversary of Louisiana Lemonade Day, and I would like to specifically commend the volunteers and supporters in cities across our State that include New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Lafayette, New Iberia, Covington, Slidell, and many more. Since 2007 this program has reached over 1 million children across the entire Nation, and has played a significant role in educating and motivating the youth in the Pelican State.

Congratulations to each and every single child who is participating in Louisiana Lemonade Day, and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of our younger generations moving forward in the coming years.●

RECOGNIZING LUCAS FIRMIN POOLS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, we in Louisiana are certainly familiar with the heat and humidity that comes with each summer, and as my four children will tell you, nothing beats the heat better than jumping into a pool. This week I would like to recognize Lucas Firmin Pools of Baton Rouge, LA, as Small Business of the Week for their ongoing commitment to supporting the local economy and bringing high-quality construction work to local YMCAs, family homes, and local residential communities across Louisiana.

Established in 2008, Lucas Firmin Pools is run by Baton Rouge natives

Lucas and Jenny Firmin. As a licensed commercial and residential contractor, Lucas has been working in the pool building industry since 2005. Lucas's wife, Jenny, is a certified pool operator with a strong background in water balance and chemistry and also manages the company's service and maintenance requests. The company's mission is to construct high-quality pools for both residential and commercial buildings in and around Baton Rouge. In the Firmins' 8 years as small business owners, they have developed a strong reputation for providing excellent customer service, which has led to the company's ongoing growth and success. Recently, Lucas Firmin Pools completed the pool facility at the local Baton Rouge YMCA.

Today Lucas and Jenny work with local professional designers, architects, and homeowners across the State in order to construct pools, fountains, and water features for families, apartment complexes, commercial buildings, and more. Congratulations again to the Lucas Firmin Pools for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I wish you continued success in the coming years.●

RECOGNIZING MANCHAC TECHNOLOGIES

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, down in the Bayou State, entrepreneurs are leading the way in a field that most would associate with Silicon Valley: new technology. Louisianians are well-known for recovering, adapting, and reinventing themselves. As it so happens, Louisiana entrepreneurs play a major role in the Nation's ongoing efforts in technological advancements, and their hard work is keeping the United States competitive on an international scale. This week I would like to recognize Manchac Technologies, L.L.C., from Alexandria, LA, as Small Business of the Week for their commitment to help improve the quality and accuracy of pharmacies in Louisiana and across the country.

Monroe Milton's long-term goal since 1997 was to make pharmacies safer and more efficient. Milton's efforts led to launching Manchac Technologies in 2006, which has made great strides in developing new technologies for retail and institutional pharmacies over the last 10 years. Milton's ideas and Manchac's follow-through have revolutionized the pharmaceutical industry, including developing a robotic solution that reduces chaos in the work environment and improves the accuracy of orders. Their work has gained considerable attention, and Milton was honored as one of Central Louisiana's "20 Under 40" community leaders in October 2015.

Today Manchac offers many products that help pharmacies keep up with prescription demands and maintain regulatory compliance, including single dose automation systems, multidose animation, and blister cards. With a focus on new technologies designed to

be more intuitive for users, Manchac representatives travel the country to share their ideas and products at trade shows and conference.

Congratulations again to Manchac Industries for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and thank you for your commitment to driving innovation and productivity for pharmacies over Louisiana and around the country.●

RECOGNIZING PONTCHARTRAIN PARTNERS LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as we approach the start of hurricane season in the United States, I would like to specifically honor the work of one award-winning company that has provided services following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina to better prepare Louisianians to weather the next big storm. This week, I would like to recognize Pontchartrain Partners LLC of New Orleans, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

In 2009, Tim Jarquin and Danny Blanks founded Pontchartrain Partners LLC in New Orleans, LA. As service disabled veterans, Jarquin and Blanks focused on long-term rebuilding of the New Orleans flood protection system. In the months after Hurricane Katrina and Rita, Pontchartrain Partners played a major role in preparing the greater New Orleans area and surrounding parishes to weather the next big storm and potentially prevent the billions of dollars in damage that we witnessed in 2005.

In just 7 years, the team at Pontchartrain Partners has built strong relationships with local, State, and Federal agencies, and has secured contracts for construction, civil engineering, and their continued work on flood protection and expansion. Additionally, Jarquin and Blanks have earned several awards and commendations for their important work from State and Federal agencies and Louisiana and national business organizations. Most recently, they were recognized as the Veteran Small Business Champion by the Louisiana Economic Development and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Additionally, Pontchartrain Partners has also been recognized as one of the top 10 fastest growing companies in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina by the Inc. 500 group, and has also been recognized as the 38th fastest growing company in America in 2014, and No. 1 in government services for the State of Louisiana.

I would like to congratulate Pontchartrain Partners LLC once more and express my appreciation for their valuable contributions to our State's infrastructure, our safety, and our economy. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success for many years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON JUNE 10, 2016—PM 50

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2016.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 10, 2016.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2328. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5278. An act to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5325. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy.

H. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress opposing the President's proposed \$10 tax on every barrel of oil.

H. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 2328.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5278. An act to establish an Oversight Board to assist the Government of Puerto Rico, including instrumentalities, in managing its public finances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; to the Committee on Finance.

H. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress opposing the President's proposed \$10 tax on every barrel of oil; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5325. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BURR for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Susan S. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 3051. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide service dogs to certain veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3052. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3053. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 551

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 551, a bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms or the issuance of firearms and explosives licenses to known or suspected dangerous terrorists.

S. 1479

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1479, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1686

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1686, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of personal service income earned in pass-thru entities.

S. 1771

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1771, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt Indian tribal governments and other tribal entities from the employer health coverage mandate.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services, to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2275

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2275, a bill to provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2289

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2289, a bill to modernize and improve the Family Unification Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2336

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2336, a bill to modernize laws, and eliminate discrimination, with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes.

S. 2424

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 2593

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2593, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of busi-

ness agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2736, a bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2791

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2791, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2927

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2927, a bill to prevent governmental discrimination against providers of health services who decline involvement in abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 2951

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2951, a bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes.

S. 3045

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3045, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reform certain forfeiture procedures, and for other purposes.

S. 3050

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3050, a bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements in which the United States is a party.

S. RES. 199

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 199, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding establishing a National Strategic Agenda.

S. RES. 483

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 483, a resolution designating June 20, 2016, as "American Eagle Day" and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

S. RES. 486

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 486, a resolution commemorating "Cruise Travel Professional Month" in October 2016.

AMENDMENT NO. 4215

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4215 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4222

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4222 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4426

At the request of Mr. KIRK, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4426 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4441

At the request of Mr. KIRK, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4441 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4544

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4544 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropri-

tions for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4550

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4550 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4574

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4574 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4629 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4675

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4675 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4675 intended to be proposed to S. 2943, supra.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4679. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4679. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 812 and insert the following:
SEC. 812. MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD APPLICABLE TO GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENTS.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENTS.—

(1) INCREASED MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2338. Micro-purchase threshold

"Notwithstanding subsection (a) of section 1902 of title 41, the micro-purchase threshold for the Department of Defense for purposes of such section is \$5,000."

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2338. Micro-purchase threshold."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking "For purposes" and inserting "Except as provided in section 2338 of title 10, for purposes".

(b) OTHER PROCUREMENTS.—

(1) INCREASE IN THRESHOLD.—Section 1902 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "\$3,000" and inserting "\$10,000"; and

(B) in subsections (d) and (e), by striking "not greater than \$3,000" and inserting "with a price not greater than the micro-purchase threshold".

(c) OMB GUIDANCE.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall update the guidance in Circular A-123, Appendix B, as appropriate, to ensure that agencies—

(1) follow sound acquisition practices when making purchases using the Government purchase card; and

(2) maintain internal controls that reduce the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse in Government charge card programs.

(d) CONVENIENCE CHECKS.—A convenience check may not be used for an amount in excess of one half of the micro-purchase threshold under section 1902(a) of title 41, United States Code, or a lower amount set by the head of the agency, and use of convenience checks shall comply with controls prescribed in OMB Circular A-123, Appendix B.

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 829K. PILOT PROGRAMS FOR AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE INNOVATIVE COMMERCIAL ITEMS USING GENERAL SOLICITATION COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may carry out a pilot program, to be known

as a “commercial solutions opening pilot program”, under which innovative commercial items may be acquired through a competitive selection of proposals resulting from a general solicitation and the peer review of such proposals.

(2) HEAD OF AN AGENCY.—In this section, the term “head of an agency” means the following:

- (A) The Secretary of Homeland Security.
- (B) The Administrator of General Services.

(3) APPLICABILITY OF SECTION.—This section applies to the following agencies:

- (A) The Department of Homeland Security.
- (B) The General Services Administration.

(b) TREATMENT AS COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—Use of general solicitation competitive procedures for the pilot program under subsection (a) shall be considered, in the case of the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, to be use of competitive procedures for purposes division C of title 41, United States Code (as defined in section 152 of such title).

(c) LIMITATION.—The head of an agency may not enter into a contract under the pilot program for an amount in excess of \$10,000,000.

(d) GUIDANCE.—The head of an agency shall issue guidance for the implementation of the pilot program under this section within that agency. Such guidance shall be issued in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget and shall be posted for access by the public.

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of an agency shall submit to the congressional committees specified in paragraph (3) a report on the activities the agency carried out under the pilot program.

(2) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program on competition.

(B) A comparison of acquisition timelines for—

- (i) procurements made using the pilot program; and
- (ii) procurements made using other competitive procedures that do not use general solicitations.

(C) A recommendation on whether the authority for the pilot program should be made permanent.

(3) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The congressional committees specified in this paragraph are the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(f) INNOVATIVE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “innovative” means—

- (1) any new technology, process, or method, including research and development; or
- (2) any new application of an existing technology, process, or method.

(g) TERMINATION.—The authority to enter into a contract under a pilot program under this section terminates on September 30, 2022.

SEC. 829L. INNOVATION SET ASIDE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget may, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, conduct a pilot program to increase the participation of new, innovative entities in Federal contracting through the use of innovation set-asides.

(b) AUTHORITY.—(1) Notwithstanding the competition requirements in chapter 33 of title 41, United States Code, and the set-aside requirements in section 15 of the Small

Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644), a Federal agency other than the Department of Defense, with the concurrence of the Director, may set aside a contract award to one or more new entrant contractors. The Director shall consult with the Administrator prior to providing concurrence.

(2) Notwithstanding any law addressing compliance requirements for Federal contracts—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), a contract award to a new entrant contractor under the pilot program shall be subject to the same relief afforded under section 1905 of title 41, United States Code, to contracts the value of which is not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold; and

(B) for up to five pilots, the Director may authorize an agency to make an award to a new entrant contractor subject to the same compliance requirements that apply to a contractor receiving an award from the Secretary of Defense under section 2371 of title 10 United States Code.

(c) CONDITIONS FOR USE.—The authority provided in subsection (b) may be used under the following conditions:

(1)(A) The agency has a requirement for new methods, processes, or technologies, which may include research and development, or new applications of existing methods, processes or technologies, to improve quality, reduce costs, or both; or

(B) Based on market research, the agency has determined that the requirement cannot be easily provided through an existing Federal contract;

(2) The agency intends either to make an award to a small business concern or to give special consideration to a small business concern before making an award to other than a small business; and

(3) The length of the resulting contract will not exceed 2 years.

(d) NUMBER OF PILOTS.—The Director may authorize the use of up to 25 innovation set-asides acquisitions.

(e) AWARD AMOUNT.—

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amount of an award under the pilot program under this section may not exceed \$2,000,000 (including any options).

(2) The Director may authorize not more than 5 set-asides with an award amount greater than \$2,000,000 but not greater than \$5,000,000 (including any options).

(f) GUIDANCE AND REPORTING.—

(1) The Director shall issue guidance, as necessary, to implement the pilot program under this section.

(2) Within 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program under this section. The report shall include the following:

(A) The number of awards (or orders under the Schedule) made under the authority of this section.

(B) For each award (or order)—

(i) the agency that made the award (or order);

(ii) the amount of the award (or order); and

(iii) a brief description of the award (or order), including the nature of the requirement and the innovation produced from the award (or expected if contract performance is not completed).

(g) SUNSET.—The authority to award an innovation set-aside under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2020.

(h) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “new entrant contractor”, with respect to any contract under the program, means an entity that has not been awarded a Federal contract within the 5-year period ending on the date on which a solicitation for that contract is issued under the program.

SEC. 829M. OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Until September 30, 2016,” and inserting “Until September 30, 2021,”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “September 30, 2016,” and inserting “September 30, 2021,”.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Max DiPietro, an Air Force Fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 487 only, with no other executive business in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jennifer M. O'Connor, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the O'Connor nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SAFE PIPES ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House to accompany S. 2276.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2276) entitled “An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes,” do pass with an amendment.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, June 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of pro-

ceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2943 with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 13, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JENNIFER M. O'CONNOR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.