

[Rollcall Vote No. 143 Leg.]

## YEAS—89

Alexander	Ernst	Murphy
Ayotte	Feinstein	Murray
Baldwin	Fischer	Nelson
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Bennet	Franken	Perdue
Blumenthal	Gardner	Peters
Blunt	Gillibrand	Portman
Booker	Graham	Reed
Boozman	Grassley	Reid
Boxer	Hatch	Risch
Brown	Heinrich	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cantwell	Heller	Rubio
Capito	Hirono	Sasse
Cardin	Hoeben	Schatz
Carper	Inhofe	Schumer
Casey	Isakson	Shaheen
Cassidy	King	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Lankford	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Lee	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Cotton	Markey	Udall
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
Cruz	McCaskill	Warren
Daines	McConnell	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Menendez	Wicker
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Enzi	Moran	

## NOT VOTING—11

Coons	Mikulski	Sessions
Johnson	Murkowski	Sullivan
Kaine	Sanders	Warner
Kirk	Scott	

The bill (H.R. 5985) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

## VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last year our country celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most important pieces of legislation that was passed in the 20th century. It opened the door for millions of Americans to exercise their constitutional right to vote. But this year will mark the first Presidential election in half a century without the full protections guaranteed by that landmark law. One of the worst decisions this corporate-dominated Supreme Court made was *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down a key part of the law, taking the teeth out of provisions that protect voters from suppression laws.

Since that misguided decision, States across the country have passed new voting restrictions that would disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of Americans. At least 17 States have passed new voting restrictions since the *Shelby County* restriction. We

know who is hurt most by these laws—African Americans, Latinos, young people, and seniors.

In North Carolina, before enacting one of these laws, the State legislature specifically asked for data on voting patterns by race. Once they had this data, they decided to eliminate or limit the voting methods used by African-American voters. Thankfully, the Fourth Circuit Court struck down this blatant attempt to disenfranchise one group of voters, writing: “The new provisions target African Americans with almost surgical precision.”

In my State of Ohio, the courts have shamefully allowed laws such as these to stay on the books. Last week we were dealt multiple blows.

First, the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal on the Sixth Circuit’s decision ending “Golden Week”—created by a Republican legislature a decade ago—when voters can register and vote on the same day during the 1 week early-voting period. In May, Judge Watson—a George W. Bush appointee in the Southern District in Columbus—found that the laws limiting early voting and registration would disproportionately impact African Americans. Judge Watson did the right thing, but the ultraconservative Sixth Circuit ruled to overturn that ruling, ending “Golden Week.” Last week the Supreme Court nodded 4 to 4 because the Republican majority leader won’t let the Senate do its job to have hearings and confirmation on Judge Garland. The Supreme Court declined to intervene.

Then the Sixth Circuit overturned a lower court ruling that had thrown out new Ohio laws imposing stricter requirements on absentee and provisional voters. Judge Damon Keith’s dissent in this case captured what these restrictions are really all about. He notes that during the committee debate over the law, one legislator asked: “Should we really be making it easier for those people who take the bus after church on Sunday to vote?”—making it crystal clear exactly what they were targeting and whom they were targeting.

Judge Keith continues:

Democracies die behind closed doors.

Voting is the ultimate expression of self-government. Instead of making it easier for all persons, unrestrained and unfettered, to exercise this fundamental right to vote, legislators are making it harder.

States are audaciously nullifying a right for which our ancestors relentlessly fought and—in some instances—even tragically died.

I would point out that only about a decade ago, this body and the House overwhelmingly, bipartisanly renewed the Voting Rights Act that the Court struck down. Now one political party is digging in in opposition to that. It is no secret what these laws are about. State legislators have made it perfectly clear.

In 2008, African Americans voted early in person at a rate more than 20 times greater than White voters. We all remember the scenes from Cuyahoga

County, Cleveland, in 2004 when some voters waited as long as 7 hours to vote. For hourly workers, college students who work a third shift, parents who have to drop their children off at school, and many others, early voting ensures that their voices will be heard. In 2012, 10 percent of the electorate—600,000 people—voted early in my State. That is 600,000 voices that might not have been heard were it not for early voting. But some judges who dress in suits and lead very privileged lives with generous benefits from taxpayers have decided these voices aren’t worth hearing. As Judge Keith said, democracies die behind closed doors. This body refuses to hold a hearing on the nominee who would have allowed the Supreme Court to hear the appeal on the “Golden Week” issue and issue a real decision.

This body refuses to bring to the floor the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act.

In 1981, when signing an extension to the Voting Rights Act, President Reagan called the right to vote “the crown jewel of American liberties.” Ronald Reagan would have seen his political party today going in exactly the opposite direction, and that is sad.

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SEAMAN 1ST CLASS WILLIAM WELCH

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Seaman 1st Class William W. Welch, a native of Springfield, OH—an American hero who laid down his life for our country during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Seaman Welch was known to his family as Billy. He enlisted in the Navy, as so many did in those days, at 17. He left during his senior year at Springfield Catholic Central High School, so determined was he to serve his country. On December 7, 1941, Welch was stationed on the USS *Oklahoma*, docked at the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. The *Oklahoma* was the first to be hit that fateful morning by the Japanese.

Of the more than 1,300 crew aboard, 429 perished that day—a loss of life second only to the better known USS *Arizona*. The ship capsized, and Billy Welch was among the first of so many Americans to make the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation during World War II. Billy’s grieving family was dealt an additional blow when their son’s remains were not returned to them, and they were unable to give him a burial befitting his sacrifice.

It wasn’t until 1943 that the Navy was able to right the *Oklahoma* and began trying to identify the remains. By then, with the technology available in the 1940s, it was too late for most sailors. Billy and his fellow sailors were buried as “unknowns,” and they had rested in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu until last year.

In 2014, Billy Welch’s nephew, Michael, contacted my office. He was

fighting—for want of a better term—with the Department of Defense, begging them to try to identify his uncle's remains with the new technology available in 2014. He was part of a movement of families and veterans trying to piece together where their loved ones were buried and get them returned home.

In 2015, the Pentagon announced plans to exhume and attempt to identify the fallen sailors and soldiers buried in the Pacific. DOD began removing caskets and using dental records and DNA to identify the remains and return those fallen heroes to their families.

Billy Welch was identified. Now, with the help of dedicated staff in my office, next month he will finally be returned to Springfield and buried with full military honors in his hometown. It will be my honor to stand with Seaman Welch's family at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Springfield and witness this hero be shown the honor and appreciation he deserves and his family has been denied for so long.

Billy and his fellow sailors may not have known the contribution they were making that day on the USS *Oklahoma* to future generations at home and around the world as the first to sacrifice their lives fighting tyranny during the Second World War. That makes their actions all the more heroic. There is a reason we call them the "greatest generation."

We are losing more and more of that generation with each passing day. Less than 700,000 World War II veterans remain with us. We lose some 430 of those heroes each day. My father, a World War II veteran stationed in New Zealand and Iran—what he always called Persia World War II—passed away back in the year 2000.

Projects like this one are all the more important and more timely. We need to identify these sailors and soldiers now, while their loved ones are still with us and still able to pay their proper respects. We owe William Welch and all those who gave their lives for our country a burial and, equally important, a tribute that befits their service and their sacrifice. I will be honored to take part in that tribute for Seaman Welch next month.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROY SCHOTT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a hard-working businessowner, veteran, and respected Kentuckian, Mr. Roy Schott. Mr. Schott recently celebrated 61 years of work as a mechanic and service station owner and 55 years as a U-Haul outlet.

His dedication to his work is something to be admired by us all.

Mr. Schott's journey began at the age of 15 when he discovered his interest and aptitude in mechanics. This led him to his first job in a garage, where he repaired motor vehicles. In 1951, he left his job and home to serve our country in the Korean war as a motor sergeant.

Upon returning to London, KY, from his time in the military, he and a friend opened a service station. Mr. Schott made an addition to his business in 1961 after seeing a U-Haul ad in the paper. The service station became Schott Marathon and U-Haul Dealership. At that time, U-Haul charged only \$3 a day to rent a trailer, later adding a \$1 fee for hitch rentals.

Mr. Schott's secrets to U-Haul success are good help, good customer service, and a good field manager. To this day, he has remained active in his business, coming every day to work alongside his loyal employees and interacting with his customers. After the loss of his wife in 2002, Mr. Schott considered retiring, but ultimately decided that he loves his job too much to ever stop.

I am very honored to represent Mr. Schott here in the U.S. Senate and want to wish him congratulations on his many years of service not only to the people of London, KY, but also to this nation. I am sure my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in expressing gratitude and admiration for his service as well. He truly represents the finest of Kentucky.

Mr. President, an area publication, the *Sentinel-Echo*, published a compelling article on Roy Schott's life. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the *Sentinel-Echo*, Aug. 22, 2016]

STILL GOING STRONG: ROY SCHOTT CELEBRATES 61 YEARS OF KEEPING VEHICLES ON THE ROAD

(By Nita Johnson)

London businessman Roy Schott has many memories.

He will share some of those, but often says they are not important.

But after 61 years of operating Schott's Service Station on Main Street, he has a lot of memories and a lot of knowledge to go with it.

"Be sure to find out what kind of oil it needs," he said to a customer who called his business on Thursday afternoon, before going into the service section and assisting an employee with loosening bolts on a car part.

Schott said he got involved in the mechanic business because it paid better than some other vocations available in 1943.

"I started working at a garage that is where the *Sentinel-Echo* is now," he said. "I got \$1.50 a day. Other places only paid \$1 a day, except the railroad and it paid \$1 an hour."

Schott learned to weld as part of his job, recalling that parts weren't manufactured then as they are today.

"If a bus came in with a broken window, you had to fix it with a piece of tin," he said.

Schott left the business in 1951 with many other Laurel Countians who went to serve

their country in the Korean War. He served two years during that conflict "when all hell was going on." War is no good memory for Schott, who still tears up when he thinks about the end of World War II.

"When World War II ended, the bell at the courthouse rang all day," he said. "There would be four or five bodies of boys come in every day."

Schott served as combat engineer in Korea, where he was a motor sergeant and oversaw 23 trucks. He remembers those trying times through a book presented to Korean veterans by the Korean government. The book shows pictures of the devastation during and following the war there, but highlights the achievements made over the years as the country rebuilt.

Once safely back home after the Korean War, Schott opened his service station on South Main Street near the former Ormsby Hardware. While also operating his service station, Schott became an authorized U-Haul rental facility. He credits Bill Ormsby for that venture—one that earned him recognition from U-Haul last year for 55 years as an authorized dealer.

"I'm the oldest one in the state, probably the oldest one in the country," he laughed.

But in 1955, Schott got a loan to start his own business. He remembers that day when his loan was approved.

"It was August 28, 1955," he said. "When you borrow money you know the date you got it."

He moved the business to its current spot on North Main Street across from London Elementary School in 1960. Now, 56 years later, he continues the tradition he began, still working performing his magic on brakes, tires and air conditioning units. The business has served him well, providing for his four children over the years. He also has grandchildren, of whom he cannot hide his pride.

"Let me tell you about my grandchildren. No, that would take too long," he said with a laugh.

Schott plans to continue to work until he is no longer able, refusing to retire. When asked if he still works on vehicles himself, he holds out his hands as proof.

"I guess I do," he said.

He once considered retirement following the death of his wife 14 years ago. But his son-in-law quickly talked him out of it.

"He said, 'What are you going to do, climb the walls?' so I decided to stay open," he said.

He believes working and staying busy is why he continues to be able to serve residents in the London and Laurel areas.

"A friend who retired told me to work all I could," he said. "He said the walls would close in on you after a little while. So when people ask me if I'm going to stay here until they have to carry me out, I tell them I guess they will."

#### GEAR UP HAWAII

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, today, September 19, marks the beginning of National Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, GEAR UP, Week, and I would like to recognize the meaningful work of GEAR UP in Hawaii.

Since 1998, GEAR UP has provided support and resources to low-income students across the country to inform them about, prepare for, and succeed in college. GEAR UP helps these students, many who are first-generation college students, overcome the challenges they face in their communities.