

On all these issues, we have to look for sensible common ground, rooted in common sense, and I believe there is room for people of good will to work together to find it.

Even as I say that, I am mindful that issues involving the second amendment rights and violence in the past fueled deep passions. Suspicion and passions have run deep and wide on both sides of this debate, including in this Chamber, and there is a lot of distrust to overcome.

I am here to keep faith with the people of Newtown who have grabbed my arm and said, "We have to do something." That is my commitment. I will work with the President and my colleagues in the Senate regardless of party or geography. I will work with any organization that is willing to engage in a thoughtful, constructive discussion about what steps to take to avoid tragedy such as the Newtown shootings in the future.

I will work to find a solution to this crisis, because it is a crisis, and I will not be deterred by any organization or campaign that uses scare tactics or intimidation. Because there was nothing more frightening, nothing more horrifying, than looking into the eyes of the parents who came out of that firehouse in Sandy Hook who lost their babies last Friday. That is any parent's worst nightmare.

I know there are some who say we can never do anything about the problem of gun violence; that we are entrenched as a nation and so polarized as a political body that we will continue to wring our hands at every massacre and never take action. Yet sometimes events happen that so horrify our country and our fellow citizens that they change the nature of the discussion. They change the political ground under us. They are a tectonic shift, and I believe the massacre of the innocent children and their loving teachers in Newtown is exactly such an event.

Yesterday, some of my Senate colleagues had the courage to join this call for action and say publicly we cannot go on as before. I wish to thank, particularly, Senator MANCHIN and Senator WARNER. Their heroic stance is an invitation, indeed a challenge, to every other Member of the Senate to join in this common effort to find common ground and at long last do something to stop the killing.

I also wish to thank, particularly, Senator REID, our majority leader, for his leadership in calling for a meaningful and thoughtful debate on gun violence.

"We have to do something. We have to do something. We have to do something." That is what people in Newtown have beseeched me over and over. I believe the American people agree. This is our moment, and we are the people to do it. We can. I ask each of my colleagues to listen to those voices and to hear their own hearts.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, first, I wish to join my thoughts on those of the two Senators from Connecticut and the Senator who just spoke, Senator BLUMENTHAL. He and I talked this weekend during these terrible times, and I told him the Judiciary Committee and the Department of Justice, on behalf of all the victims, were standing by to help them in any way they can.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today is the first day since Hawaii became a State that it is not represented by DAN INOUE, either as a House Member or as Senator.

As I look at my dear friend's desk with the traditional white flowers, I can't tell you how much it pains me. He was one of the greatest Members of this body ever to have served and a dear friend to so many of us. He was perhaps the best role model for public service any American could ask for. Senator INOUE's story is one of great passion for his people, commitment to his calling of public service, and dedication to finding a better way forward for all Americans, a true patriot.

A soldier in World War II, a veteran of the Armed Forces, he fought for the freedom of the Nation he so loved and believed in. The Nation finally recognized that, making him a recipient of our Congressional Medal of Honor.

As a representative of Hawaii, he dedicated his career to establishing and solidifying a place for his State in Washington so generations of Hawaiians to come might know the benefits of what he did not have, Federal support for such important causes such as higher education, transportation, health care, and security. His advocacy was never in vain, and the people of Hawaii benefited immensely from his service.

But I think his efforts to bring people together is unmatched. The grace with which he conducted his work should inspire all of us, as it does me. He was the man who could reach out to both sides of the aisle, make friends and make peace. He poured his heart and soul into the Senate. He was first and foremost a person of the Senate, and we all felt his passion and concern for the work of this body. There is no doubt he is going to be greatly missed in these halls. He was a mentor. He was a friend. We traveled together. Our wives were friends.

The reason I didn't speak last night, I opened my desk and looked again—the desk I have now, this seat, I inherited from DAN INOUE—and his name is inscribed in it. As the distinguished Acting President pro tempore knows, we inscribe our names in our desks, and DAN INOUE's is there. When I looked at that last night I was overcome with emotion and so I did not speak then.

I realize I am delaying things a couple of minutes here, but when I think of my friend and I think of his name, I remember he said he wanted to be remembered as having represented his people and all Americans honestly and to the best of his ability. He filled that. He filled that. We all know he gave his everything to the Senate, and his legacy is for us to continue the work he has done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY AS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE FOR THE 112TH CONGRESS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The senior Senator from Vermont, the President pro tempore elect, will be escorted to the desk for the oath of office by the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] and the junior Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS].

The President pro tempore elect, escorted by Senators REID and SANDERS, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

(Applause, Senators rising)

NOTIFYING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE U.S. SENATE

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 622.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A Resolution (S. Res. 622) notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 622) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 622

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy as President of the Senate pro tempore.

NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE U.S. SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 623.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A Resolution (S. Res. 623) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 623) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 623

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy as President of the Senate pro tempore.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR LEAHY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I first wish to congratulate my friend, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, who has been honored to receive one of the Senate's highest honors, President pro tempore of the Senate. I congratulate him and join with him in expressing my sadness over the passing of Senator DAN INOUE.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to express my sadness over the passing of Senator DAN INOUE.

DAN INOUE came to this government, started his government service, at least, 60 years ago in the territorial legislature of Hawaii. He came to Congress when Hawaii became a State in 1959, to the Senate in 1963, and was second only, I guess, in service to Robert Byrd. He was a serious man, a solid man, a patriot, and one who always had a good spirit about how he conducted his affairs and how he related to other Members of the Senate, to his constituents, and to the American people.

DAN had served in the most violent combat and was grievously wounded himself. He was part of the 442d Regimental Combat Team, a 4,000-man unit that served in brutal combat. They were replaced 3½ times in personnel to maintain their strength, with 14,000 having served in that combat team during the brutal combat in Italy. There were 9,500 who received Purple Hearts and 21 Medal of Honors, including Senator INOUE's Medal of Honor.

It was a remarkable time and a remarkable commitment DAN INOUE demonstrated to the country he loved.

I know we will talk about his record, and I may do that later myself, but I want to say what I think about DAN INOUE at his core. He shared with us a few weeks ago at the prayer breakfast—and we don't quote what people say at that meeting—his feelings about war and his participation in it. It was one of the most moving presentations I think any of us had heard, and it was so well received by the people there. The truth is, Senator INOUE did not like war. He hated war. He knew the destructive power of war and how people suffered as a result of it, and he voted against a number of resolutions that would commit the United States to military action.

But at the same time, there was no doubt, based on his ranking and chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Appropriations Committee over a period of years—decades—he was the person who always, at bottom, could be counted on to ensure this Nation was well defended; that we did not make mistakes.

He and Senator Ted Stevens had a unique relationship. When something developed that was important for the Defense Department, and it involved a danger to our government or could do damage to the Department or they seriously needed something—and often-times in this government, we can't respond and we don't respond effectively—DAN INOUE and Ted Stevens would go in and it would be fixed. They understood that peace through strength was the best way to avoid war, and they felt a sense of great responsibility to ensure the Defense Department was not damaged on their watch. Their experience and their judgment was such they could tell the difference between whines and complaints and real danger to America's defense capability.

I would say that DAN INOUE has established a record that places him among the finest Senators ever to serve here, one of the finest human beings to serve here, and I want to say, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, how much I appreciated his particular commitment to ensuring that America's defense capability remains second to none and his willingness to take the steps necessary to maintain our defense at the level we would want it to be.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT TRAGEDY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, to begin, I want to take a few minutes to express my deepest sorrow for the events of last Friday. As a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent, I was horrified to hear the news of the tragedy in New-

town, CT. My sadness remains for those who have lost their children and loved ones and for the quiet community that saw its sense of peace and well-being shattered through such a terrible act of violence.

I, like almost everyone I know, am at a loss when it comes to making sense of such a horrible tragedy, and I won't try to do so today. All I can do is offer my prayers and sympathies for those who lost their children, friends, and family members, and to the people of Newtown.

In my faith, we believe families are eternal; that those who have lost loved ones will one day be reunited with them. That belief has helped me to cope with losses I have experienced over the years. And while I know nothing can relieve the pain of losing a child, I hope this notion will bring the parents of those sweet innocent children some measure of comfort.

Once again, I offer my heartfelt prayers and deepest sympathy to those in Newtown and throughout the country who have cause to mourn this day.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to a person I loved, appreciated, and worked with for all these years—all of my 36 years in the Senate—and to bid a fond farewell to our dearly departed friend, the senior Senator from Hawaii, DAN INOUE.

In addition to being a distinguished United States Senator, Senator INOUE was many things: a Pearl Harbor survivor, a Medal of Honor recipient, a father, a grandfather, and a loving husband to his wife Irene.

As a volunteer with the Red Cross, young DANIEL INOUE tended to the wounded in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During World War II, when the Federal Government was placing thousands of his fellow Japanese Americans in internment camps, Senator INOUE was one of many Asian Americans who petitioned the government for the right to serve their country in the military. His petition was successful, and he served heroically. In fact, the story of Senator INOUE's military service has become the stuff of legend here in the Senate and throughout the country.

In 2000, Senator INOUE, along with 21 of his fellow Japanese-American World War II veterans, was awarded the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest honor for valor.

In 1959, when Hawaii achieved statehood, he was elected the State's first full member of the House of Representatives. Three years later, in 1962, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he would serve for five decades, the second longest tenure in this Chamber's history. I am honored to have served with Senator INOUE throughout my entire Senate service.

While he and I often found ourselves on different sides when it came to