

open. This past Sunday I attended an interfaith service, jointly performed by Old South Church and other local religious institutions, at the corner of Boylston and Berkeley Streets, a few blocks from the site of the bombing. I stood with hundreds of worshipers from a variety of faiths in downtown Boston, praying, signing, remembering. This perseverance and dedication to faith and community is why Boston has not grown weary; it is why Boston has not fainted; it is why Boston is strong.

Reverend Edgerton, thank you for the blessing you brought to the Senate today. I join you in praying for our hometown and for our Nation as we face the challenges ahead. The qualities you and your church exemplify, the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, the power of healing and prayer, and the strength of community are what will bring Boston through these difficult times. I am honored that you joined us today.

I yield the floor.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 799

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 799 is at the desk and due for a second reading; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 799) to provide for a sequester replacement.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceeds with respect to this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now yield to the junior Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. COWAN.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. COWAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise this morning to join Senator WARREN in honoring our guest Chaplain from Boston, Rev. John Edgerton, and I thank him for his words this morning.

In the wake of the recent tragedies in Massachusetts, I am glad to welcome a representative of Boston's spiritual community to deliver our invocation today. Reverend Edgerton's church, the Old South Church, is located on Boylston Street, not more than 100 yards past the finish line of the great Boston Marathon.

Since the first marathon 117 years ago, the Old South Church has been known as the Church of the Finish Line. Every year, the Sunday before Patriots' Day, the Old South Church holds a service to bless those running the marathon the very next morning. The service this year included the

theme music from "Chariots of Fire" and the Olympics as well as a prayer for the athletes. Marathoners from around the Commonwealth, Nation, and world congregate at the Old South Church seeking community, faith, and strength for the upcoming race.

Last Monday explosions rocked the finish line at Boylston Street and brought chaos to the front door of the Old South Church. For over a week the church's doors remained closed, as did much of the neighborhood, as investigators scoured the block for evidence. But today, as we pray here for those lives lost and those still recovering, Old South Church will open its doors once again and pray for our city, our Commonwealth, and our citizens.

As we do in times of hardship and heartbreak, we rely on the guidance of community leaders such as Reverend Edgerton and take comfort in their words. It is through their guidance and wisdom that we find the strength to rebound from tragedy and to find hope to move forward.

In churches all across Massachusetts this week, from the Back Bay to Dorchester and from Medford to Stoneham, bells will toll in their steeples and worshippers of all faiths will gather to remember the lives of Officer Sean Collier, Lingzi Lu, Krystle Campbell, and Martin Richard, and to pray for the scores who were injured.

Again next year, we look forward to the Sunday before Marathon Monday when runners will again gather at the Old South Church to receive their blessings before the running of the 118th Boston Marathon. We will always remember, and we will recover. We are thankful to have leaders such as Reverend Edgerton to guide us as we do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE BOSTON BOMBINGS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 115, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 115) commending the heroism, courage, and sacrifice of Sean Collier, an officer in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Police Department, Martin Richard, an 8-year-old resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts, Krystle Campbell, a native of Medford, Massachusetts, Lu Lingzi, a student at Boston University, and all the victims who are recovering from injuries caused by the attacks in Boston, Massachusetts, including Richard Donohue, Jr., an officer in the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Transit Police Department.

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

Mr. COWAN. I am honored to join the senior Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in this resolution to honor those who were injured or

who lost their lives last week as a result of the attack on the Boston Marathon and during the manhunt to apprehend the suspects.

In this resolution the Senate commends the heroism, courage, and sacrifices of Sean Collier, an officer in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology police force, and Richard Donohue, Jr., an officer in the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority police force.

Officer Collier was a 26-year-old native of Wilmington, MA, and was on the force for just over a year in his dream job, a police officer. Before joining the ranks at MIT, Officer Collier served as a civilian employee with the Somerville Police Department, and likely because of his outstanding service at MIT he was going to be invited to return to Somerville in June of this year, this time as an officer.

On Thursday evening last, Officer Collier was murdered in the line of duty, allegedly by the men suspected in the Boston Marathon bombings of last week. MIT Police Chief John DiFave said the following about Officer Collier:

Sean was one of these guys who really looked at police work as a calling. He was born to be a police officer.

Officer Collier was compassionate and stood out for his ability to connect personally with the students and community he served. We will never forget his devotion to protecting the community of MIT and serving as a police officer. He will be sincerely missed. I honor the exemplary service of Officer Collier and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Last week MBTA police officer Richard Donohue, Jr. was working to protect the public at the Boston Marathon, and early Friday morning he raced to assist Cambridge police as they pursued the suspect who shot an MIT officer in Watertown, MA. What Officer Donohue may not have known was that officer down at MIT was his friend and fellow police academy classmate Sean Collier.

In the ensuing gun battle, showing remarkable courage and disregard for his own safety, Officer Donohue endured a barrage of gunfire and explosives unleashed by these suspects, and he himself was seriously wounded. Officer Donohue is recovering from his wounds and remains in critical but stable condition. I wish to thank Officer Donohue for his service, and I wish him a speedy recovery. As he heals, our thoughts are with the entire Donohue family, especially his wife Kim and their young son, who are a constant presence at his hospital bedside.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 115) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate operates by cooperation and consent. So it is unfortunate that we could not reach an agreement yesterday to consider amendments to the Marketplace Fairness Act, a measure that will provide parity between brick-and-mortar retailers and online stores.

A few Senators have held up this important legislation—and I mean a few—legislation which proponents have advocated for 11 years. The able sponsors of this bill—Senators ENZI, DURBIN, and ALEXANDER—are continuing to work to get an agreement on a list of amendments upon which the Senate could vote.

Three-quarters of the Senate support this measure. A number of those who do not vote with us do not oppose this legislation, they are doing it for other reasons. This is overwhelmingly important legislation, but, as we saw with the background check measure and the other gun matters last week, here in the Senate a minority of Senators can block even measures with overwhelming support. We found that on background checks. This bill is no exception. Despite 75 votes to proceed to the Marketplace Fairness Act, just a few individual Senators are vowing to derail this legislation. Absent consent, we will vote on closure on this measure an hour after we convene tomorrow.

I remain open to an agreement to consider amendments to this legislation. The proponents of this legislation have worked for a long time to move forward. They worked all day yesterday and the day before to come up with a list of amendments. No one is trying to prevent amendments, except a handful of Senators. I am eager to conduct an open debate on this bill, but time is winding down. One way or another we are going to finish work on this measure before we leave for our in-state work period, even if it takes the weekend. Those people—that handful of people—should understand that. The calendar is simply too full to allow this important measure to hold over until next month.

The Senate must complete work on job-creating water resource legislation and a farm bill during the May work period so we can move forward on the immigration debate in June. We have had eight Senators who have spent days, weeks, working on an immigration bill. We have a bipartisan bill coming to the Senate with a system to fix our broken immigration system, just like we have a bipartisan bill on the Senate floor today.

The only way we get things done around here is with Senators working together. The immigration bill is a good example of that, and this bill is a

good example. We cannot let a few people stand in the way of fairness. That is what this is all about.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last week one of our most senior Democratic colleagues, a primary author of ObamaCare, referred to the law's implementation as "a train wreck." He warned: "Small businesses have no idea what to do." They have no idea "what to expect." He also expressed concern that the health insurance exchanges for consumers and small businesses could turn into a fiasco. I agree with him. I think just about everyone in my conference agrees with him.

Here is the difference. This is not some grand revelation to Republicans. We have been saying this since day one. We said a government takeover of health care would raise health care costs and premiums. We said it would raise taxes on the middle class. We said it would force millions of Americans to give up insurance plans they liked and wanted to keep. We said it would bury families and small businesses in a literal mountain of regulations, and we said it would cost our country jobs. We shouted these things from the rooftop throughout the health care debate. A few of us have even said it would be a "train wreck."

Until now, the President's allies mostly ignored or brushed off our concerns. But do you know what. With each passing day, it appears clearer and clearer that we were right to sound the alarm.

Only now are Washington Democrats starting to come around to the reality of what they passed. Perhaps they thought a "yes" vote on this bill would somehow magically cure our country's health care challenges without any cost increases, without hurting the middle class, and without the massive, unmanageable bureaucracy that is being erected literally as I speak.

That is the problem. That is why we are stuck in this mess. Our constituents did not send us here to robotically fall in line behind bad legislation and then pat ourselves on the back for "doing something." They sent us here to eventually elevate public policy and to think about the medium- and long-term consequences of our actions.

Look, ObamaCare's mounting challenges shouldn't come as much of a surprise. It is not just that Republicans have warned about them for so long or that experts echoed our concerns. A lot of the problems in this 2,700-page bill should have been pretty self-evident right from the start.

In some ways I am glad to see more and more Washington Democrats and their allies come around to the reality of what they have done.

Earlier this year Democrats helped us repeal the CLASS Act, for instance. Last month, the Senate voted overwhelmingly, 79 to 20, to repeal the law's job-killing medical device tax. Last week we saw a union reverse course and come out for repeal of the law. I would hope more would come out and join us in repealing it in its entirety, root and branch. I am optimistic we will see more common sense take root in the days to come as the country learns more about this law and the harm it is causing families, businesses, and taxpayers. I suspect we will.

When administration officials are reduced to hoping that the law's implementation will not amount to "a third world experience," then you know there is trouble on the way.

That is why I have also called on the President to address the Nation and give an honest accounting of what many Americans can expect as this law starts to come online: the higher costs, the premium increases, the taxes, the loss of health care plans they like and want to keep. All of that is happening. We asked him to do this in his State of the Union speech. He should have, because the longer he waits to lay out the truth for the American people, the more people are going to get blindsided by all of this. That is simply not right. The President shouldn't waste any more time. In the meantime, Americans can rest assured Republicans will keep working to repeal this law. I hope more of the President's allies will join us in this fight as well, because all of us owe our country better than this.

For the sake of my constituents in Kentucky and for the sake of Americans across the country, I urge my friends on the other side to join with Republicans and stop the train wreck, stop this train wreck before things get even worse.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

On the matter currently before the Senate, I wish to make the following observation about the Internet sales tax bill. Earlier this week I announced my opposition to this bill, which I don't think is in the best interests of Kentuckians or its taxpayers in general. I know everyone in the Chamber doesn't feel that way. This bill may pass. There are Members on both sides who support it. Before it does, I hope the Senate will at least have some chance to offer amendments.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak