

our Nation's law enforcement communities have been resolute and clear: Congress needs to support common sense measures, such as background checks for gun sales, to help stem the gun violence that plagues our Nation.

This is far from a revolutionary idea. Polls consistently show that approximately 90 percent of Americans support universal background checks. So do major law enforcement groups such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Police Executive Research Forum and the Police Foundation. These groups, each of them dedicated to the safety of our people, tell us that the time is now to act to prevent more senseless gun violence.

The extension of background checks to all gun sales would go a long way toward making our neighborhoods safer. Today, anyone, including convicted felons and the mentally ill, can walk into a gun show and walk out with a deadly weapon. As Police Chief Ronald Haddad of Dearborn, MI put it in a letter he wrote to me this past April, "Police see firsthand the toll that gun violence takes in our schools, on our streets, and among our fellow officers—and we know from experience that our broken gun laws are a significant part of the problem."

This status quo has dangerous consequences. A 2004 Department of Justice survey found that 80 percent of prisoners who committed crimes with handguns got them through private transfers, where no background check is required. In many of these cases, a simple background check could have stopped a tragedy and saved lives by keeping a weapon out of the hands of someone who sought to use it for harm. As Baltimore County Police Chief James Johnson put it at a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing earlier this year, "The best way to stop a bad guy from getting a gun in the first place is a good background check."

We should listen to the voices of those entrusted with the safety of our communities. We should listen to the officers who every day confront well-armed criminals who legally purchase weapons to turn on innocents. We should live up to the spirit of Peace Officers Memorial Day by passing the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013, a common sense piece of legislation to protect our society from more senseless gun violence. We owe the brave law enforcement professionals who keep our communities safe nothing less.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President. On June 16th, a group of World War II veterans

from Montana will be visiting our Nation's Capitol.

With a great deal of honor and respect, I extend a hearty Montana welcome to each and every one of them.

Together, they will visit the World War II Memorial and share stories about their service. This journey will no doubt bring about a lot of memories. I hope it will give them a deep sense of pride as well.

What they achieved together almost 70 years ago was remarkable. That memorial is a testament to the fact that a grateful nation will never forget what they did or what they sacrificed. To us, they were our greatest generation. They left the comforts of their family and their communities to confront evil from Iwo Jima to Bastogne. Together, they won the war in the Pacific by defeating an empire and liberated a continent by destroying Hitler and the Nazis.

To them, they were simply doing their jobs. They enlisted in unprecedented numbers to defend our freedoms and our values. They represented the very best of us and made us proud.

From a young age, I remember playing the bugle at the memorial services of veterans of the first two World Wars. It instilled in me a profound sense of respect that I will never forget.

Honoring the service of every generation of American veterans is a Montana value. I deeply appreciate the work of the Big Sky Honor Flight, the nonprofit organization that made this trip possible.

To the World War II veterans making the trip, I salute you. We will always be grateful, and we will never forget your service or your sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SULLAM

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President; I rise today for a moment of bittersweet reflection and the celebration of a dedicated public servant who has contributed greatly to the State of Maryland and our entire Nation. June 21st marks the final day that Susan Sullam will be working in my office as my communications director. We've traversed a 27-year journey together that started when I was first running for the House of Representatives. Over the years, with a combination of her quick writing and single-minded determination, she has helped me find my voice and articulate my positions during the very best and the very worst of times for me and our country. She has been a friend, trusted counselor, and a part of my extended family.

As a former editor at Knight-Ridder with an interest in politics, Susan became one of my first and few campaign workers. She was instrumental in helping me win my first election to the U.S. House of Representatives. And when I took office, she became my first press secretary. Somehow, Susan managed to give 110 percent of herself to her family and to her job.

Throughout our time working together, I have had the privilege of

watching Susan's daughters, Jennifer and Karen, grow into remarkable, professionally accomplished young women. She instilled in her girls the understanding that you really could raise a family and have a career without shortchanging either one. I am forever grateful to them and Susan's husband Brian for sharing her time with me and the people of Maryland. I know Susan's family is looking forward to their first dinner without her Blackberry.

I have always thought that Susan was born to be a journalist. Her mother, Mary Jane Fisher, was an admired and respected journalist and publicist who worked for 25 years as the Washington correspondent for the National Underwriter, a publisher of insurance and financial services trade publications. She was a well-known figure on Capitol Hill, and she frequented hearings of the Ways and Means Committee, where I served.

During one particularly memorable Medicare hearing, I watched from the dais as three generations of this wonderful family all worked the room. Mary Jane was reporting for her publication; Susan was covering the hearing as my press secretary; and Susan's daughter Jennifer was serving as an intern in the Ways and Means press office that summer, reporting to her boss, now-Representative DAN MAFFEI of New York.

Susan has been witness to the good and bad of politics over the course of nearly three decades. We started together at a time of great optimism that Congress could make decisions and enact meaningful legislation. Susan worked tirelessly during the many iterations of health care reform; she was constantly and meticulous pulling together materials that would help explain how real families would benefit from the passage of the legislation. This was as true in the 1990s with Hillary Clinton, as it was just a few years ago when we finally passed the Affordable Care Act. Her congressional career also encompassed my time as a member of the House Ethics Committee. During this period, Susan was witness to the various undertakings of the committee as it carried out its authorization to investigate violations of the House of Code of Official Conduct by Members and staff, investigations that included the "House Bank" and the Speaker of the House.

But Susan's career was so much more. As I pushed to reshape our retirement system, Susan was there every step of the way with an article, interview, or a cable show designed specifically to get out the word to people who could benefit from the proposed legislative changes.

Some moments we have shared together tested our Nation, as well as our professional relationship. We came together as a family during 9/11, watching our Nation as it was grievously wounded. I voted against giving President George W. Bush the power to send

our troops into Iraq. While I knew it was the right decision, it was certainly not an easy one at the time. She pushed hard and urged me to take the strongest possible position against the war. She was my voice and my megaphone.

What makes all of Susan's accomplishments so much greater is the fact that she did much of this split between Washington and Baltimore. She was born and raised a Washingtonian but made Baltimore her home and the place she raised her family. She was as comfortable talking about restaurants on Federal Hill as Adams Morgan. When I was elected to the U.S. Senate, Susan was with me as I traveled throughout the State. She welcomed the opportunity to expand our representation to all of Maryland. Together we held press conferences on the Eastern Shore, visited editorial boards in western Maryland, and attended ribbon cuttings from Aberdeen to Fort Meade. Susan made herself familiar with nearly every Maryland smalltown newspaper and most of their publishers and could tell you about their editors without missing a beat.

After 27 years, I take as much pride as Susan in the fact that she really has had more opportunities than anyone else to share my voice and my positions on issues of importance with the people of Maryland and the Nation. I have enjoyed working side-by-side with her and having her as an anchor of Team Cardin. I have learned from her, and I thank her for her time. Her quick words, honesty, and dedication to public service will be missed by me, Myrna, and my entire staff. It is with heartfelt gratitude that I wish her well in this next stage of her life.

REMEMBERING EUGENE RUEHLMANN

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, today I wish to remember Eugene Ruehlmann, former mayor of Cincinnati, OH, for his leadership, his visions, and his dedication to his community and for his distinguished career in law and public service. Mr. Ruehlmann passed away at the age of 88 on June 8, 2013.

A native Cincinnatian, Mr. Ruehlmann's talents were recognized early on when he was voted "Boy Mayor of Cincinnati" in 1942 as a teenager. His public service career officially took off years later after he served our Nation in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, earned degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Harvard Law School and launched a successful law practice. Ultimately, Mr. Ruehlmann served 12 years on the Cincinnati City Council beginning in 1959 and served as the mayor of Cincinnati from 1967-1971.

Known as a "Clean Gene" for his principled leadership and legendary integrity, Mr. Ruehlmann was instrumental in advancing Cincinnati as a major league city. His leadership in-

cluded guiding the early transformation of downtown Cincinnati with the development of the new Fountain Square Plaza, Riverfront Stadium, the establishment of an NFL team, the Cincinnati Bengals, and constructing Cincinnati's Convention Center.

Following the race riots in 1967, Mr. Ruehlmann worked to heal the city. He reformulated the city's Human Relations Commission, and founded the Mayor's Housing Coordinating Committee and the city's Project Committee.

He has given his time to numerous charitable and community organizations, such as Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Work and Rehabilitation Center, March of Dimes and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Mr. Ruehlmann was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in 2011. In 1998, he was named a Great Living Cincinnatian by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce for his lifetime of service and leadership. In 1970, the Urban League of Cincinnati honored him with a special award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Service.

He built a successful law practice as founder of the Strauss, Troy and Ruehlmann law firm, as a partner with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease in Cincinnati, and as a director on the Board of the Center for Resolution of Disputes.

In all these years, and with all these accomplishments, he remained a devoted family man. He and his late wife, Virginia, were married for 61 years and raised 8 children, 25 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. President, I would like to honor Eugene Ruehlmann for his dedication to the City of Cincinnati, to his community and to his family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BOY SCOUT TROOP 414

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate Boy Scout Troop 414 in Wellington, Lorain County, OH.

For more than a century, the Boy Scouts of America has evolved along with America. This organization has helped create a foundation for boys to realize their responsibilities as citizens. Boy Scouts learn to value leadership, discipline, equality, justice, and integrity—but, perhaps, the greatest lesson shared with Scouts is the importance of service.

Good citizenship matters. It strengthens our democracy, transforms strangers into neighbors, and helps move us closer to becoming a more just and open society.

Troop 414, one of the oldest troops in Ohio, remains active in the local community. From volunteering and main-

taining the county fairgrounds to collecting items for the local food bank and organizing monthly camping trips, Troop 414 provides new opportunities for boys to contribute to Northeast Ohio.

As an Eagle Scout, I am especially proud of the Eagle Scouts in Troop 414: Alex Coker, Bradley Cuthbert Jr., Connor Dunwoodie, Aaron Ferguson, Stephen Ferguson, and Michael Savel.

With more than 30 additional active troop members under the guidance of Scoutmaster Darrell French, I know that the future of scouting is bright in Ohio. •

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT WILLIAM SEYMOUR "BULL" EVANS

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I would like to pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corps MSgt William Seymour "Bull" Evans of Cresaptown, MD. "Bull" Evans was a member of the legendary Marine Corps Raiders and fought valiantly in some of the most pivotal battles of the South Pacific during World War II and the Korean war. "Bull" Evans remains one of the most decorated military servicemen in western Maryland. He amassed an impressive number of medals and awards, including the Purple Heart with four clusters; two Presidential citations; the Bronze Star; Silver Star; Navy Cross; and many others over the course of a 15-year military career.

Evans' strength as a swimmer was recognized early in his youth in Cresaptown, where he could frequently be found swimming in the Potomac River even during the winter months. When Evans was 18, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he eventually became an expert in amphibious assault techniques and was selected to serve with the elite 2nd Battalion, First Marine Raiders. Evans was on his first furlough, in Honolulu, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. He was among the first volunteers for the newly-organized Second Battalion, First Marine Raiders, a special operations force formed in response to the attack. Evans' heroic acts have made him a legend among Marines—36 hours of continuous action on Midway Island, a solitary advance to stop an assault on his unit while pinned down by the enemy on Tulagi, and singlehandedly stringing barbed wire to prevent an attack on his unit's position near Guadalcanal. His penchant for rapidly advancing into enemy territory by himself established his reputation as the "One Man Army" and earned him the nickname "Bull" among his brothers in arms.

Following Evans' service in World War II and as the conflict grew in Korea, he volunteered to join the 1st Marine Division and, in spite of injuries sustained in earlier campaigns, signed a waiver allowing him to fight. After being seriously wounded by machine-gun fire and shrapnel, Evans returned to the battlefield to assist in