

RUBIO and others, that would help get our at-risk kids through school and into college.

We should also support innovative cutting-edge research. I have a bill that would make the R&D tax credit permanent and open it to startups. It is called the Startup Innovation Credit Act, which has been cosponsored by a wide range of Senators: ENZI and RUBIO, BLUNT and MORAN, STABENOW, KAINE and SCHUMER, a truly bipartisan bill.

I am proud to be working with Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee on, hopefully, strengthening and reauthorizing the America COMPETES Act.

The third area we should be focusing on is tied to us doing more to harness the resurgence of American manufacturing. There are a dozen smart bills—many with bipartisan support—that have been introduced, taken up, and passed in the Senate that are currently languishing in the House. We should work to make a real difference for America's manufacturers.

Fourth, we have to help grow our economy by growing our markets, by growing our opportunities around the world. As chairman of the African Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have worked across the aisle to push forward bills that would create new market opportunities for American businesses.

With Senators DURBIN and BOOZMAN, I have reintroduced a bill which aims to triple the amount of U.S. exports to Africa over the next 10 years.

Fifth and last, an area on which I thought all of us would be able to come together, is investing in infrastructure. The BUILD Act, introduced and taken up in the last Congress—which I hope we will soon move to—would create a national infrastructure financing vehicle, an infrastructure bank, if you would, to help bring private funds into vital infrastructure projects. It has had bipartisan support in the past from the Chamber of Commerce to the AFL-CIO.

It is my wish we can take it and use it as a vehicle to help the 12 million people who are looking for work find the jobs they need.

I have a simple question: When is Washington, when is Congress going to get back to work on behalf of those still looking for jobs? How much longer will we wait? How much more clock will we run out? How much more time will we waste?

It is my prayer that this Chamber, this country, finds a way to work together to get over this partisanship that has paralyzed our political process.

In closing, I wish to say a word of thanks to colleagues I have seen who have come to join me in the Chamber, Senator MCCAIN and Senator FLAKE of Arizona. They are exemplars of the folks who have worked together across the aisle to find solutions to some of the big problems facing us.

They worked tirelessly with Democratic colleagues to put together the

architecture of the bipartisan immigration bill that was passed through this Chamber in recent weeks. It is my hope that others in the other Chamber will see that spirit and take this opportunity to take up and pass legislation to put America on a track toward growth. There are 12 million reasons for us to do that, 12 million Americans looking for help getting back to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

HONORING THE FALLEN HEROES OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW

Mr. FLAKE. I rise today with a heavy heart to remember 19 brave men, 19 grieving families, 19 empty places in the Prescott community that will never be filled. Arizona and the entire Nation, shares in their sorrow.

The loss of the members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots and the loss to the community was both terrible and swift. We are right to ask why.

Why were they taken from us? Why were these seemingly fearless men, these exemplars of all that is brave, good, and decent in men, choose a job that causes them to run into an inferno just as everyone else is running away from it?

In answering that, we get an essence of who these men are, these 19 lives of achievement and purpose, courage and discipline.

From all corners of America, they came together in Prescott with a single goal in mind: protecting people and property. To do this, they trained relentlessly, willingly took the worst that Mother Nature could throw at them, all to save lives and homes for their friends and their neighbors.

They did so accepting the risks, embracing them even, in the words of the old hymn, "calm in distress, in danger bold."

They did so in the name of community.

Americans are characterized by the word, by our sense of communal spirit, civic duty, and service to others. This is what makes us who we are.

Those characteristics describe perfectly the 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots. They were not merely given the gratitude and respect of the citizens of Prescott, they earned it. They earned all of our admiration and respect, as well.

Now in that same communal spirit, we must help the families who carry the weary load.

Grief is a lonely thing, but those who are grieving for a husband or for a son, know that millions of us are thinking of you and praying that your hearts find solace and comfort.

To the children of these men, carry deep inside of you the knowledge that they were as proud of you as you are of them.

This band of 19 embodied what is best about our country. I am honored that

they were, in the end, Arizonans. We should all be proud to live in a community, State, and nation built on the kinds of guts and selflessness that these men personified.

Today we are all, in the words of A.E. Housman, "townsmen of a stiller town."

May God bless the souls of these 19 brave men.

Senator MCCAIN and I had the privilege yesterday to travel out with the Vice President, two Cabinet Secretaries, and other Members of Congress to a memorial service for these brave 19. It was an incredible experience to see a community come together as it did. The townspeople, people from across the State, across the country, and people across the world were sending their condolences for the actions of these men.

We are so fortunate to live in a country like this. Senator MCCAIN and I are so fortunate to be Arizonans. We are fortunate to witness what we have witnessed in the past couple of weeks.

I am pleased to submit this resolution to honor these men.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. First, I thank the Senator from Delaware for his kind words about me and my friend and colleague from Arizona, who I believe is carrying on in the fine tradition of his predecessor Senator Kyl in a spirit of bipartisanship and dedication to the people of Arizona.

I come to the floor with my colleague from Arizona to offer a resolution honoring the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew.

Yesterday, Senator FLAKE and I were privileged to attend a memorial ceremony in Prescott, AZ, honoring the life and sacrifice of the 19 brave men of the Granite Mountain Hotshots who lost their lives last week battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in Yavapai County, AZ.

I know I speak for all of my fellow citizens in expressing our gratitude to the Vice President of the United States, who came all the way to Arizona and gave a moving, stirring, and wonderful testimony to these brave Arizonans. I believe it is typical of my friend for so many years, the Vice President of the United States, that he and his wonderful wife would come to Arizona to join us to honor the efforts of these brave men.

These were not men merely worth knowing, they were men to admire. They were men to emulate if you have the courage and character to live as decently and honorably as they lived. Not many of us can. But we can become better people by trying to be half as true, half as brave, half as good as they were and to make our lives count for something more than the sum of our days.

The news accounts of their lives and the testimonials to their virtues that have appeared in the days since we lost

them give the rest of us a glimpse of what a blessed memory they are to those who knew and loved them. Some of them were the sons of firefighters who grew up wanting to be like dad, their hero. Some leave behind wives and children. Some were expecting the birth of their first child. Some married their high school sweethearts. Some were engaged and looking forward to being husbands and fathers.

Two were cousins and best friends. One rescued horses. One aspired to preach the word of God. One was a standout ball player. One dressed in a yellow raincoat when he was 6 and pretended to put out fires. Some were born in Arizona. Some came from other places and fell right in love with the beauty and people of Arizona.

Some were shy. Others were practical jokers. They were all respected and admired, the kind of men you just like being around.

They all loved the outdoors. They were athletic and adventurous. They loved their jobs. They wanted to serve others. They wanted to make a difference. They all had a purpose greater than themselves. They were all young, so young. They were all brave, so brave. They were all loved and were loved, so loved. They will all be missed, so terribly missed.

I will forever be touched by what their families and friends have told me about them and how much they meant to them and their communities. Their stories teach us how to be better people. Their loss reminds us to hold each other a little tighter, to love each other a little harder. I will always consider myself disadvantaged for not having known them. From the little I know about hope in the face of daunting challenge and the indomitability of the human spirit, it is so vital to helping us keep our faith and to endure. I hope I can offer some solace when I say the courage of those we honor today is immortal. It does not perish with them. How they lived and what they did will inspire others to live courageously, purposefully, selflessly.

Of these qualities, we tend to see merely flashes throughout our lives. In these men of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, we see grand examples—sublime, shining, and unforgettable examples—that will summon good men and women today and long after our time has passed to live bravely, compassionately, and honorably.

In a fierce and terrifying encounter with extreme danger, they stood their ground like the heroes they were and fought for their community. While they did not come home to the people who loved them so much and will miss them always, I firmly believe we will see them again in the better world that is to come.

Until then, we fondly remember the humanity and the heroism of these brave men, their wonderfully unassuming down-to-Earth nature, all of their marvelous imperfections known only

to their closest family and friends, and how, in the face of dire peril, they rose beyond all that makes us merely ordinary and let God cradle them in his arms and carry them away.

The lost men of the Granite Mountain Hotshots died having taught us all to live. For that, as we honor them and pay our respects to their loved ones today, I submit we should all find great solace.

I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 193, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 193) honoring the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, 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. 193) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I yield the floor.

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

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

KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

DISABILITIES CONVENTION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 23 years ago I stood here on the Senate floor as we voted 91 to 6 for the conference report on the Americans With Disabilities Act. I predicted this landmark piece of legislation would literally unlock the resources of individuals with disabilities that had previously been wasted. I worked long and hard to get it enacted into law. It is one of the bills of which I feel most appreciative.

In 2008, I again stood here on the Senate floor as we passed the ADA Amendments Act by unanimous consent. I said it was part of our ongoing effort to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities and to help them participate in the American dream. I remain committed to that effort.

Both of these legislative achievements were the result of negotiation and compromise, and they directly addressed and provided concrete solutions to problems faced by American citi-

zens. We should address such public policy issues through the legislative process so elected representatives make the decisions that affect Americans and are consequently accountable to them.

There is underway an effort to promote the rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities through a treaty rather than through legislation. Advocates of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities—or CRPD—appear to believe that statutes and treaties are simply alternative means to accomplish the same end. Although I have labored with these advocates on disability legislation, I must respectfully but firmly disagree.

My record on disability legislation speaks for itself, but I cannot support the CRPD because the cost to American sovereignty and self-government clearly outweighs any concrete benefit to Americans.

When Alexander Hamilton explained the American system of representative self-government, he famously said that in America, "The people govern; here, they act by their immediate representatives." Those words today are inscribed above an entrance to the House of Representatives in the Capitol, a building that Thomas Jefferson described as "dedicated to the sovereignty of the people."

That sovereignty certainly includes the authority to elect representatives and the authority of those representatives to enact laws. But it is much more than that. The American people also have authority to define our culture, express our values, set our priorities, and balance the many competing interests that exist in a free society. To put it simply, the American people must have the last word. The CRPD would undermine that sovereignty, compromise self-government, and give the last word to the United Nations. Let me explain how.

The CRPD is not a treaty with other nations but a treaty with the United Nations itself. Ratifying it would create a wide range of obligations for the United States and authorize the United Nations to determine whether we are meeting those obligations.

The U.N. Web site says the CRPD legally binds any nation ratifying it to adhere to its principles. The treaty applies those principles in more than two dozen areas of national life including education, health, employment, accessibility, and independent living, as well as participation in political, public, and cultural life. Article 8 even requires ratifying nations to "raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities."

The treaty also spells out what adherence to its principles in these many areas will require. Ratifying nations must enact, modify, or abolish not only laws and regulations at all levels of government—Federal, state, and local—but also social customs and cultural practices. Ratifying nations must