

OK. And play soccer he did. That began for me a great education, and it was so good for my son Leif, my middle boy. They had a great team. My wife and I started going to the games and learning about soccer. It was so much fun. When we moved back here, he was a freshman in high school and suffered a very badly broken leg playing soccer, so his career ended there.

My next boy was a baseball player.

My youngest boy was a gifted athlete. I boasted about him for many years. He was a soccer player, and he also played basketball. He played soccer on two national championship teams for the University of Virginia. By the time he went there, I had watched hundreds of soccer games. For him to play at this premier school with great athletes, playing soccer across the country, was really an experience and, again, an education.

For example, one of my son's teammates was the famous Claudio Reyna. Claudio was so good. It was a team of many great athletes. My son was a gifted athlete and everybody on the team was good, but Claudio Reyna was better than anyone.

Claudio's dad emigrated from Argentina. His mom was from a Portuguese family. They lived in New Jersey, where he was recruited to play for the University of Virginia. My son came from a different background. His grandfather was born in Russia, emigrated to the United States. His grandmother on my wife's side had Lithuanian blood. My grandmother emigrated from England.

So he and Claudio were on that team, and it would be hard to find two young men with more different backgrounds than they. They were teammates.

Their other teammates had backgrounds that were similarly unusual, different—a young man from Spain, one from Jamaica. An All-American named Damien Silvera was from Jamaica. These young men, 11 players—and some who didn't play all the time—came from different cities and different cultures, but they were one. They were a team. They were in rhythm, always united in purpose.

They were coached by the great Bruce Arena, a famous coach who coached the Olympic team—in fact, coached one of the first championships here, playing for the Washington professional team here. He is now coaching for L.A. They won the championship there many times. He was good with a diverse group of men and women playing in sync. It was really beautiful to watch. I guess that is why they call soccer the beautiful game.

Tonight our men's soccer team will play Ghana in its first game—since being twice knocked out by Ghana—in the 2014 World Cup.

The World Cup is special, watched by more people than the Olympics. It comes around every 4 years, and Americans from all walks of life and all backgrounds watch together in support of our Nation's soccer team. But our

support for Team USA comes from more than just athletics. It is more than just competition. I think we see a bit of ourselves in the team. Our unique connection to the U.S. men's soccer players stems from the team's composition. The roster is a reflection of America itself. It is diverse, yet it is united. It is a reflection of us.

Our head coach Jurgen Klinsmann was a legendary soccer player. I can remember his playing in the World Cup. He was from Germany and played for West Germany. He has lived in the United States for a number of years.

One of the team's defenders is a man by the name of Omar Gonzalez—Texas-born, Mexican American—who played professionally in Los Angeles for Bruce Arena.

Our striker, Aron Johannsson, is a 23-year-old Alabama-born Icelander who plays in the Netherlands.

DaMarcus Beasley is the team's 32-year-old veteran defender from Indiana, who plays professionally in Mexico.

Jermaine Jones, who plays midfield, is the German-born son of an American soldier and plays professionally in Turkey.

These are just a number of examples. There are so many more. The entire roster is an illustration of America's diversity. We are, after all, a nation of immigrants.

Under Klinsmann's direction, these players will bring their unique talents and experiences from across the world and coalesce under one flag—the American flag. I wish the team all the best tonight against Ghana. I will be watching and cheering on the team.

Another reason I love soccer: You don't have all those advertisements interrupting the game. It is a free-flowing athletic contest. There is the background of announcers talking about what just took place, and sometimes we don't fully understand it, but the game goes for 45 minutes and then another 45 minutes, for a total of 90 minutes, plus whatever penalty time they get—an extra 3 to 5 minutes after the 45 minutes is up—not interrupted by commercials.

So I admit I will be watching and cheering on the game. I hope our colleagues do the same, and I have confidence they will. When we do watch this team out there, watch what our team represents, what America stands for. See what makes this great country of ours so special. The United States really has given refuge to the tired, the poor, the huddled masses of the world, and they have become strong Americans, and we as a nation are better for it.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, I would ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I hope the Presiding Officer and my colleagues had a great Father's Day this past Sunday. I had maybe the best Father's Day you can imagine because I got to spend part of it with my two sons and my father. We all went out to dinner with my wife, and it was a really special day.

I come to the floor with both a light and heavy heart, light because I got to experience Father's Day in a way I wish thousands of other people across the country could experience it. The statistics of the number of people who are killed by guns every year is pretty stunning. There are tens of thousands of people all across this country who are losing their fathers and sons, in part because the Senate doesn't do anything to try to stem the scourge of gun violence across the country.

As the Presiding Officer knows, I try to come to the floor every week for about 10 minutes or so to try and give voice to the victims of gun violence.

Today, 24 hours having passed Father's Day, maybe we can talk a little bit about those who have lost their fathers and their sons—little boys such as Logan Soldo.

Logan is about to turn 1. He certainly doesn't know what happened to his father Igor, but when he is old enough, unfortunately he will hear a pretty horrific story. His father—having fled war-torn Bosnia as a 13-year-old to settle in the United States—was killed in a shooting at a Walmart, which got a lot of attention about a week or so ago.

Jared and Amanda Miller—fairly well-known radicals in the Las Vegas area—walked into a Walmart and shot Igor Soldo, a police officer, while he was eating at a restaurant.

People talked about Igor and his journey. As I mentioned, he came here from the Balkans when he was 13 years old and graduated from Southeast High School in Lincoln, NE. Following high school, he studied criminal justice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and worked part time as a corrections officer for 3 years in Lincoln where he met his wife Andrea. The couple were married in 2009. They were planning on celebrating their son's first birthday. His birthday will be on July 7. They

were going to return from Las Vegas to Lincoln to celebrate it with friends and family, but instead Igor's family ventured and journeyed from Lincoln to Las Vegas to bid farewell to their son, who was a police officer killed in this episode of horrific violence which killed two others and eventually also led to the death of the two shooters.

One of his fellow officers, who was one of Igor's close buddies, told the story at his funeral about how close Igor was to his son. He said, through tears, to the crowd:

I started getting pictures of Igor and Logan. I would see him with Logan over at the house and it was clear . . . our once epic romance was being replaced.

Logan Soldo will never know his dad, but there are thousands who lose their sons every year.

Over the weekend some of my colleagues might have had a chance to read an op-ed in the Washington Post written by Mark Barden and David Wheeler. Mark and David lost their sons, Daniel and Ben, in Sandy Hook. They talked about what Father's Day has become. They said:

We know Father's Day is meant to be a day when fathers sit back on their couches, watch sports and take it easy. But this Father's Day, we ask you to do one thing differently. Look at your children, your beautiful, growing, pesky children who bring you so much joy and sometimes cause you so much heartache, and ask yourself—really ask yourself—this: Am I doing everything I can to keep them safe? Because the answer to that question, if we all answer honestly, clearly is no.

Of course, that is the answer here in the Senate because we have witnessed over 70 school shootings since Sandy Hook. There were 35 school shootings this year alone, and we are not even halfway through the year. There are 31,000 people a year—2,600 people a month, 86 people a day—who are killed by guns, and we do nothing.

We tried to pass a pretty simple bill that would expand the number of sales that would be subjected to a background check—supported by 80 percent of the American public—on the floor of this Senate, but because of a Republican filibuster, we could not get it to a final vote. The numbers are clearly not moving people, so hopefully the stories will, stories such as that of one particular father who has become the face, in many ways, of the Sandy Hook tragedy, Neil Heslin.

Many people have heard Mr. Heslin talk because he probably talks in the most poignant, open, soul-baring terms of any of the parents.

Twenty-four hours removed from Father's Day—which many of us got to spend with our dads and our kids—I will leave you with the words from Neil Heslin's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On December 14, Jesse got up and got ready for school. He was always excited to go to school. I remember on that day we stopped by Misty Vale Deli. It's funny the things you remember. I remember the hug he gave me when I dropped him off. He just held me, and he rubbed my back. I can still feel that hug.

And Jesse said, "It's going to be alright. Everything's going to be okay, Dad." Looking back it makes me wonder. What did he know? Did he have some idea about what was going to happen? But at the time I didn't think much of it. He was just being sweet.

He was always being sweet like that. He was the kind of kid who used to leave me voice messages where he'd sing me happy birthday even if it wasn't my birthday. I'd ask him about it, and he'd say, "I just wanted to make you feel happy." Half the time I felt like he was the parent and I was his son.

Taking a break from Neil's testimony for a second, this was Neil's only family. He was separated from his wife. Neil has been unemployed, bopping between different housing situations. His entire family—his entire life—was his son Jesse.

Neil went on to say:

Jesse just had this idea that you never leave people hurt. If you can help somebody, you do it. If you can make somebody feel better, you do it. If you can leave somebody a little better off, you do it.

They tell me that's how he died.

When he heard the shooting—at Sandy Hook Elementary School that day—he didn't run and hide. He started yelling. People disagree on the last thing he said. One person who was there said he yelled "run." Another person said he told everybody to "run now."

What I know is that Jesse wasn't shot in the back. He took two bullets. The first one grazed off the side of his head, but that didn't stop him from yelling. The other hit him in the forehead. Both bullets were fired from the front.

I hate to say it but even when you know your community has been hit, you hope and pray it wasn't your boy. They had us all to go to a fire station to wait and see if our kids would make it out of the school. By 3:30, maybe 4 o'clock, they told us there were no more survivors. I should have realized. They'd basically told me my son was dead, but I waited. I told the people what to look for, what he'd been wearing that day. He had this striped shirt and Carhartt jacket, and these pants that fit him in September, but then he hit a growth spurt. I gave the description and I waited some more. I waited and I hoped, until 1:30 in the morning. That's when they told me he wasn't coming.

Breaking away from his testimony again for a second, I was at that fire house, and I will never forget the scene of Neil Heslin sitting by himself hour after hour.

Returning to his testimony, he concludes by saying:

Before he died, Jesse and I used to talk about maybe coming to Washington some day. He wanted to go to the Washington Monument. When he talked about it last year, Jesse asked if we could come and meet the President.

I said earlier that I can be a little cynical about politicians. But Jesse believed in you.

This is Neil talking to us.

He learned about you in school and he believed in you. I want to believe in you, too. I know you can't give me Jesse back. Believe me, if I thought you could I'd be asking you for that. But I want to believe that you will think about what I told you here today. I want to believe you'll think about it and then you'll do something about it, whatever you can do to make sure no other father has to see what I've seen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

DEFENSE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTING

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, when I first exercised congressional oversight of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program in 2010—at that time I was the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee—I saw a program in turmoil. Perhaps the most significant indication of that was that while the program had exploded from its original overly optimistic development cost estimates by more than \$15 billion and was delayed by 5 years, without the prospect of delivering needed warfighting capability anywhere on the horizon, the program's prime contractor consistently received most of those award fees that were available to it under its contracts with the government. Let me repeat. The contractor continued to receive award fees that were supposed to be given in case of the program meeting certain milestones. In fact, it exceeded the cost estimates by \$15 billion and was delayed by 5 years.

Since 2010 major challenges have continued to arise. Just days ago the Department of Defense grounded the entire F-35 fleet because of an in-flight emergency involving a leak of engine oil. This is the second grounding of the F-35 fleet due to engine problems in the last 16 months.

Much work remains to be done in the program, including validating design and operational performance; installing state-of-the-art flight and combat software programs—those programs are still being written—and making the F-35 affordable, with life-cycle costs estimated at more than \$1 trillion—the first weapons system in the history of this country that is estimated to cost \$1 trillion. While the Government Accountability Office has said the program is "moving in the right direction," this is clearly a program that has had and continues to have major problems.

With this in mind, I was greatly concerned when I read an article last week entitled "Carter: JSF Program Manager Based F-35 Award Fees on Desire to Protect Lockheed Exec." It was on InsideDefense.com. The article describes comments made by former Deputy Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Ashton Carter—a man I admire a great deal—in a speech at Harvard University on May 16, 2014. He revealed that while the Joint Strike Fighter Program was suffering from massive cost growth and