

a feeling like there's an occupying force" and "can send the wrong message."

So this is the concern that justified keeping lifesaving gear from police officers. So, according to the administration, the need to save police officers' lives in the line of duty is something that should be weighed against and, in fact, sacrificed to the desire to prevent distrust or discomfort on the part of others. How many police officers' lives are we going to sacrifice? One? Twenty? One-hundred? This is outrageous.

Each day across America, there are 780,000 law enforcement officers who put on a badge and uniform, and they answer the call of those in need no matter the danger. When others run away, they run to the problem. The rest of us in America rely on these law enforcement officers doing their job. The people who live in high-crime areas, often ethnic minorities living in high-poverty areas of our inner cities—these are the folks who most depend on those officers. When those officers are held back, we all pay a steep price, but the residents of those communities pay the steepest price.

I just hope we in the Federal Government will stop putting obstacles in the way of law enforcement and start supporting them. I hope we as a nation will stop scapegoating law enforcement and start thanking them. If we fail to reverse the Ferguson effect, what we will see is more violent crime and more suffering of our people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, over the past few years, bipartisanship has not always fared well in the Senate. We have been able to change the Chamber's culture for the better in 2015. Now that is in jeopardy once again.

In the first half of the year, we had a number of bipartisan accomplishments. It kicked off with the passage of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act at the beginning of the year. The new law will provide the VA with the personnel, services, and proper tools to help veterans facing mental illness struggles, which is vital as it is estimated that 22 veterans commit suicide every day. The Clay Hunt act will help stop this tragic and unacceptable trend.

Then we were able to pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act in a unanimous fashion. This law will save lives. It will restore dignity to the victims of these heinous crimes, and it will help end modern-day slavery.

We followed that with legislation that will give Congress a voice in the President's negotiations with Iran over its illicit nuclear program. There was such a strong show of bipartisanship on this vote that it forced President Obama to drop his initial veto threat. Had we not maintained bipartisan unity, there would be no review of the Iran deal. There would be nothing stopping President Obama from signing a bad agreement with Iran. It is because we stood together across party lines that the American people will now have a say in negotiations.

Before we adjourned for the Memorial Day work period, we approved granting the President trade promotion authority. We worked together to provide the President with the necessary tools to negotiate a fair trade deal while maintaining Congress's important role in the process.

I say all this to highlight what we can accomplish when we work together. Unfortunately, the minority leader seems intent on ending that streak.

We are in the midst of discussing another bill which should have substantial bipartisan support, the National Defense Authorization Act. Yet, Minority Leader REID has called this vital, traditionally bipartisan bill "a waste of time." This is a bill which, as the senior Senator from Arizona has noted, Congress has passed for 53 consecutive years, including those when the minority leader controlled the Senate schedule.

Far from a waste of time, the NDAA helps us modernize our military to face today's security challenges. We live in a dangerous world. We have to stay ahead of those who would seek to harm us, not fall behind them. This is no time to be dismissive of our national security needs.

It is also about the livelihood of over 1.4 million men and women on Active Duty and 718,000 civilian personnel. We are talking about the Nation's largest employer. The NDAA helps us ensure that we are doing everything we need to do to help them. So I think we can all agree there is much in this bill that needs to get done.

Unfortunately, the White House is taking what should be a bipartisan bill and using it to push for its own political end game to increase domestic spending. Worse yet, the President has somehow convinced Senate Democrats to go along with this misguided strategy.

Instead of approaching this in a bipartisan manner, the minority leader is forcing his caucus to carry water for President Obama, who has indicated he would veto the NDAA unless he gets the domestic spending increases he is demanding. That means the President stands ready to block the policy prescriptions and funding levels for the Department of Defense unless we give other agencies, such as the EPA, as they try their additional power grab through things like the Clean Water

Act and extending that, and the IRS, as they waste money on bonuses for their employees—all of this is very dangerous.

There will be plenty of time to debate our domestic spending priorities and allotments, but now is not the time. Let's get that bipartisan mentality back and finish the work that needs to be done to protect our Nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, today, as I have for a number of weeks, I rise to speak about 11 North Dakotans who did not come home from the Vietnam war. Each of these men gave his life for our country.

Before I begin speaking about the 198 North Dakotans who died during Vietnam, I wish to thank my great friend, Bill Anderson of Rutland, ND. Bill is a marine, and he is a veteran of the Vietnam war.

Bill grew up in Rutland, attended the University of North Dakota, and then started law school at the University of Colorado. It was the late 1960s, and young men with college degrees were being drafted. So Bill left law school, enlisted in the Marine Corps, and was trained to be an officer. In 1970, he arrived in Vietnam and became the commander of the 2nd Platoon of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

Bill's own written words about the impact the Vietnam war had on him strike me. He didn't choose to write about his blindness caused by the malaria vaccine that he took or his lymphoma caused by Agent Orange exposure. Instead, Bill focused on his experience in Vietnam and on the greatness of the 18- and 20-year-old Marines with whom he served. Bill writes:

I am proud, every day, of the Marines I served with in Vietnam. They did not shrink from danger. They did not flinch at combat. They did their duty with steadfast courage of United States Marines, and for that Americans can, and should, be proud and grateful.

I am grateful for Bill's service to our country. I am also proud of his service to my State. After his time in the Marines, Bill ran his family-owned insurance business. And then, when he was 40 years old and had lost most of his vision, he returned to law school. Since the 1980s, Bill has served many communities in southeastern North Dakota as a private practice lawyer. In fact, I can tell you this, as a lawyer myself: Bill Anderson is one of the most brilliant

lawyers I have ever worked with. And since 2004, Bill has been a Sargent County Commissioner.

So thank you, Bill. I hope that you will have a great reunion later this month in Tennessee with the Marines of Company D.

Mr. President, I now wish to take a few moments to talk about the lives of those Vietnam veterans who did not come home.

ARLAN GABLE

Arlan Gable was from Rolette. He was born February 3, 1938. He served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division. Arlan was 29 years old when he died on June 10, 1967.

He was the youngest of 10 children and grew up on his parents' farm outside of Rolette. Arlan's niece, Sandi, remembers all the animals on the farm, and in particular, she remembers chasing his mother's geese.

Each of the five boys in the family served our country in the military. Right after graduating from high school, Arlan enlisted in the Army. He served in Korea and Germany, and he served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Arlan was killed while serving as the gunner on a tank when the tank hit a landmine. About 1 month before, Arlan had been home on leave. After his death, Arlan's mother's health deteriorated very rapidly.

MARK MANGIN

Mark Mangin, a native of Verono, was born April 29, 1949. He served in the Marine Corps' 3rd Marine Amphibious Force. On October 1, 1969, Mark died. He was only 20 years old.

He grew up on his parents' small farm and had one brother, Marvin. Marvin said that during high school Mark played basketball and loved fixing old cars. The brothers both worked for neighboring farmers. Before graduating, Mark enlisted to serve because he wanted to become a marine. He earned his GED while at basic training.

Mark sent letters home from Vietnam asking Marvin to take care of their mom and dad, and he wrote that he was an expert marksman and liked what he was doing. He included pictures of himself holding young Vietnamese children.

When he had less than 1 month left of his tour of duty in Vietnam, Mark was killed when someone near him tripped the wire of a boobytrap. His brother believes that with his mechanical abilities, he would have become a mechanic.

MICHAEL MEYHOFF

Michael Meyhoff was from Center and was born February 3, 1948. He served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division. Michael died January 4, 1968. He was 19 years old.

He grew up in a big family in a small house. Michael was the second of 11 children. Two of his brothers, Rick and Brent, also served in the Army.

While growing up, Michael enjoyed helping his grandparents on their family farm near Center, ND. Michael's

brother, Rick, says that Michael was a good athlete and was an explorer. He always had to see what was over the next hill. He especially loved fishing with his father and always looked forward to fishing trips as opportunities to explore and spend time with his family in the outdoors. Michael was very family-minded and was excellent at writing letters and responding to letters from his brothers, sisters, parents, and grandparents.

When he died, Michael's community was deeply affected. Now, 47 years after his death, his family and community still think about him or talk about him daily.

Michael's mother, Harriet, will turn 90 years old next month. She has told the family that when she dies, she wants to be buried with Michael's Purple Heart.

CHARLES PIPER, JR.

Charles Piper, Jr., was born November 21, 1937. He was from Durbin. He served in the Navy on the USS Robison as a master chief boiler technician. Charles was 34 years old when he died on August 30, 1972.

Charles and his sister Marion worked on nearby farms after their father died when they were children. Marion says that Charles was a good listener and was always a good mentor to her son. When Charles was 17 years old and had just graduated from Casselton High School, he enlisted in the Navy. He didn't like water, but his cousins serving in the Navy inspired him to join.

Charles made his Navy service a career. He had about a year left in the Navy before he planned to retire. His dream after retirement was to work for the game and fish department and to live with his wife Marie on their farm near Kalispell, MT.

THOMAS WELKER

Thomas Welker was born on February 23, 1938, and made his home in Minot with his wife Frances. He served in the Army 101st Airborne Division. His unit was called the Screaming Eagles. Thomas died on July 27, 1967. He was 29 years old.

Before going to Vietnam, the Army stationed Thomas, Frances, and their sons, John, Thomas, Rodney, and Dean, in several places in the United States. Thomas' older stepson, Rodney, said that Thomas loved to hunt and fish. He worked two jobs to support his family, working as a bartender on the base in the evenings.

In Vietnam, Thomas was killed when someone nearby stepped on a Bouncing Betty. The Army awarded him a Bronze Star Medal for his valor that day. Thomas is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

IRVIN KNIPPELBERG

Irvin Knippelberg was born in Turtle Lake on January 17, 1939. He served in the Army's 25th Infantry Division. He was 27 years old when he died on May 19, 1966.

He was the youngest of five children. His two brothers served our country

during the Korean war—Jack in the Army and Darold in the Navy.

Growing up on his family's farm near Turtle Lake, Irvin was the big little brother. He was 6 feet 4 inches tall, but he was the kid brother. His brother Darold is Irvin's only living sibling. Darold said that when the brothers played together boxing, Irvin's arms were so long that he could hit his brothers four times before they could ever get close to him. Darold remembers Irvin as a good-natured, loveable guy who everyone liked. Darold says he knows that Irvin's faith helped him along in life.

After high school, Irvin first enlisted in the Marine Corps. He later enlisted in the Army and spent time in Alaska and Japan before his tour of duty in Vietnam. He planned to make the Army his career. Irvin had only been in Vietnam about 1 month when he was shot and killed.

DELBERT AUSTIN OLSON

Delbert Austin Olson was from Casselton, and he was born on January 4, 1926. He served as a commander in the Navy. Delbert was 42 years old when he went missing on January 11, 1968.

Delbert was the youngest of four children who grew up on his family's farm. His brothers also served in the military—Charles in Korea and Harold in World War II. Delbert's family said that he loved flying and was committed to his Navy career. He was a phenomenal naval officer and pilot.

Delbert was 6 feet 4 inches tall, and his son, David, is 6 feet 6 inches tall. Delbert's brother, Charles, told David that he looks just like his dad, "Delly."

In 1968, Delbert and eight other Navy crewmen went missing when their aircraft crashed into a mountain in Laos. In the 1990s, investigation crews were finally able to search for the remains from the crash. All nine crewmen were identified and, in 2003, they were buried together in Arlington National Cemetery.

In addition to his siblings, Delbert is survived by his daughter Dana and his son David.

DONALD SOBY

Donald Soby was from Rugby. He was born on December 15, 1946. He served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Donald died on July 7, 1967. He was 20 years old.

Donald was the youngest of three children. His brother William also served in Vietnam in the Air Force.

Their sister Margaret said that Donald always lived for today. He was a good kid, but if he wanted to do something, he would go and do it that day because he may not get another chance. She remembers Donald's sense of humor and good-natured pranks.

Donald and his best friend, Terry, shared many adventures together, including taking Margaret's young son with them to a nearby town to attract girls and running into the game warden, who sent them home after discovering the ducks they were supposed to

be hunting looked a lot more like pheasants.

Donald and his brother William both served in Vietnam at the same time. The brothers inquired about Donald's leaving Vietnam since they were both serving, but they were advised to wait until William's discharge. They were able to spend Christmas of 1966 together. That was the last time William saw Donald.

In May, Donald was wounded, and he died in July as a result of those wounds. The family is extremely grateful to Wanda Nielson of Rugby for coordinating efforts for the military to fly Donald's mother to the Philippines to be with Donald at the time of his death.

JOHN JOYCE

John Joyce, a Minot native, was born on November 15, 1944. He served in the Marine Corps, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines. John died on April 17, 1969. He was 24 years old.

John was one of four children and enjoyed playing sports in his free time. In addition to playing football, basketball, and track, John left a legacy of being an excellent baseball player. He played baseball for Minot State University and for Northern Arizona University. In 2001, he was inducted into the Minot Baseball Hall of Fame.

After college John became a teacher and coach for a year in Montana. He then enlisted in the Marines and served in Vietnam. One of John's best friends, Jan Olson, who taught with John and also served in Vietnam, said this about John: "Inch for inch, pound for pound, he was the toughest man I ever knew and he was also the nicest man."

About 6 weeks after his death, John was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic actions. His Bronze Star citation describes John putting himself in the line of fire while defending his platoon with a grenade launcher and then carrying a wounded companion to a covered position.

Ronald Jensen is a Marine who served under John in Vietnam. Ronald's 2003 book, titled "Tail End Charlie," describes John like this:

He was a great guy, no questions about it. He helped everybody, always in the front, and he saved me. He was most liked by his men. He saved a lot of lives over there.

WILLIAM "BILL" KRISTJANSON

William "Bill" Kristjanson was born October 13, 1943, and was from Inkster. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. His unit's nickname was the Black Scarves. Bill died on February 26, 1970. He was 26 years old. He was the only child born to Sig and Frances Kristjanson.

He attended elementary school in Conway and high school in Inkster. In 1967, Bill graduated from the University of North Dakota. He also attended the University of Michigan and the University of Oslo in Norway. Bill's pride and interest in his father's Icelandic heritage inspired him to tour Iceland after graduating from UND.

In 1968, Bill was drafted into the Army. In Vietnam, he was involved in

both ground and air combat. About 5 months after arriving in Vietnam, Bill was promoted from private first class to sergeant on the battlefield.

On February 11, Bill was injured when the vehicle he was riding in overturned. About 2 weeks later, he died in a military hospital in Japan. The ten medals the Army awarded him, both before and after his death, demonstrate that Bill was a heroic soldier the Army valued greatly.

PATRICK MCCABE

Patrick McCabe was from Bismarck, and he was born on July 20, 1924. He served in the Army as a master sergeant. Patrick died May 6, 1968, at the age of 43.

He came from a family dedicated to serving our country. Four of the six boys in his family served in the military, and all three of Patrick's sons followed in his footsteps and joined the military. Two of his sons served in Vietnam after Patrick's death—Mark as a medic in the Marines and Scott as an Air Force pilot. Patrick's third son, David, served in the Air Force for over 20 years.

Patrick's daughter, Kathy, said that her dad was a good man who helped anyone who needed it. Her dad loved his country and felt like the Army was his family.

Patrick served in World War II and two tours of duty in Vietnam. He volunteered to return to Vietnam and died during his second tour of duty.

We tell these stories because we cannot ever forget that every life matters. I am always struck by imagining what these young men would have been had they been allowed to grow up, whom these young men could have been when they were grandfathers and whom they would have taken fishing or hunting or taught how to play football. But these lives were given in sacrifice to their country and in sacrifice so that all of us can live in freedom, and we must never forget, during this period of commemoration of the Vietnam war, those people who gave the ultimate sacrifice, those people who were killed in action in Vietnam.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The Senator from Alaska.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act. I rise in support to move this bill forward and the amendments that many of us in this body want to have heard, debated, and voted on.

I also rise in opposition to obstruction—obstruction to this bill, obstruction to the key issues of national defense for our country. Make no mistake, there is obstruction going on, on the Senate floor right now, with regard to this important bill.

A little bit of background here: This bill, the NDAA, came out of the Senate Armed Services Committee after a lot of hard work, bipartisan work, by all the members of the committee. We worked together to include over 185 amendments. Almost all of these were bipartisan amendments.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle talked about voting against the bill because they did not like the way it was funded, even though our committee had nothing to do with the funding. But at the end of the day, after much debate in the committee, we worked and passed a strong, important, reform-oriented bipartisan NDAA by a vote of 22 to 4. That is bipartisan.

I thank the chairman of that committee Senator MCCAIN and the ranking member Senator REED on their great leadership in getting this committee to work so closely together to move the bill forward.

As part of the Armed Services Committee, just 2 weeks ago, I had the distinct honor of traveling with both of them to Vietnam and to Singapore for an important Defense Ministry conference. It was a huge honor for me as a new Member of the body to travel with JOHN MCCAIN and JACK REED—two veterans who have sacrificed a lot for their country—to Vietnam and other places. They did a fantastic job on this bill.

Then, this bill came to the floor and it all stopped. Everything came to a halt. There are over 500 amendments of Senators who want to move forward on a bipartisan basis to try to improve this bill. We have gotten to barely a trickle—barely a trickle—and nothing has happened. For 2 weeks we have been on this bill and nothing has happened after the great work we did in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

What is going on here? It is the same obstructionist playbook that my colleagues and particularly the minority leader used for the last few years, and the American people have rejected it. They rejected it last November, and they rejected it when they realized this body had only 14 rollcall votes on amendments during the entire year of 2014. That is not how this body is supposed to work. Nobody on either side of the aisle wants this body to work that way. It is certainly not how it is supposed to work when it comes to the defense of our Nation and the critical bill to take care of our men and women in uniform. Yet, the minority leader said this bill is a waste of time. I will repeat that. The National Defense Authorization Act, one of the most important things we do in this body, is "a waste of time."

I understand that the parties have ideological differences, and that is certainly the way it should be. That is the