

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

GREG KING

Mr. CARPER. Good afternoon, Mr. President. For more than a year now, as the Presiding Officer knows since he has had the good fortune—or bad fortune of drawing the short straw—of sitting there when I come to the Senate floor just about every month to highlight the extraordinary work that is being done by the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security—I am here to do that again today. The agency has so many talented folks, and they do incredibly important work, so there is no shortage of material.

As the Presiding Officer knows, the Department of Homeland Security is made up of 22 component agencies and employs over 200,000 people. These men and women work around the clock, and the work they do is designed to protect all of us—protect our families and protect our country. Last month we were reminded of just how crucial the work they do is when terrorists attacked a train station and airport check-in area in Brussels, Belgium, setting off bombs that killed 32 people and wounded hundreds more. Our thoughts and prayers have been and remain with the families, loved ones, and victims of these horrible attacks.

Just 6 days before these tragic attacks, I spoke on the floor about the difficult but critical work performed by the 59,000 employees of the Transportation Security Administration, affectionately known as TSA. These men and women work every day. They do so to ensure that all of us—Americans and tourists who visit—may travel around our country and around the world safe from harm.

The attack in Brussels shows us once again just how important these efforts—performed by the men and women at TSA—are to every single American and to our visitors. It also reminds us how important it is that TSA has the tools and resources needed to effectively carry out their mission.

To help ensure that the TSA is well equipped to protect the public, I worked with a number of our Senate colleagues last week—Democrats and Republicans alike—to include amendments to a bill reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Our amendments will help make airports and transit hubs across our country safer for travelers by doubling the number of teams—called VIPR teams—of Federal agents and bomb-sniffing dogs that patrol our airports and subways to deter and identify potential attackers.

These amendments will also make security improvements to public areas in

airports and train stations and ensure that the men and women patrolling those areas can effectively respond to the types of active shooter incidents we have unfortunately seen more frequently in recent months.

These commonsense amendments are just one of the many ways we can support the men and women at TSA and throughout the Department of Homeland Security who work on the frontlines every day screening passengers, guarding our ports of entry, and patrolling our transit hubs.

One part of the support we need to extend to these brave public servants is world-class training and education. By expanding and improving training opportunities for our law enforcement personnel, we can make sure they have the knowledge and make sure they have the capability to respond to every situation that may arise. That is why one of the best tools in our homeland security arsenal is the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

As my staff knows, I don't like acronyms very much, but this is a pretty good one. It is called the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. It is located in Glynco, GA. It goes by the acronym F-L-E-T-C, and we affectionately call it FLETC. I am not crazy about acronyms, but that is a pretty good one. We call it FLETC.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is tasked with teaching the men and women we deploy to the frontlines how to best utilize the technologies and techniques needed to protect Americans here at home and around the world. They provide training to literally dozens of Federal agencies, State law enforcement personnel from across our country, and our international partners, who travel from all over the world to learn from the best right here in America. From active shooter trainings, to advanced forensic techniques, to methods to counter human trafficking, FLETC instructors provide training in nearly 100 courses. They host the training academies for a number of other agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Recently, TSA announced that they would be establishing a new, permanent academy for transportation security officers at FLETC's main facility in Glynco, GA. Having their training centralized at FLETC will allow TSA to better ensure uniform training for all of their officers and better collaborate with other components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Providing world-class training and instruction to tens of thousands of law enforcement officers each year requires bringing together some of the most highly qualified professional instructors from across our country. The more than 1,000 men and women from across law enforcement who serve at FLETC utilize their personal experience in the field to create and to lead effective trainings that help law enforcement

professionals keep us—Americans and our guests—safe and secure each day.

One of FLETC's world-class instructors is Greg King, pictured right here to my left. For nearly 10 years, Mr. King has been an instructor at FLETC, utilizing his own experience to train Federal officers deployed around the world.

Before coming to FLETC, Greg served his hometown of Cleveland, OH, working for the Cleveland Police Department for 28 years. If he is listening, I would just suggest that I have been thinking that Greg may have started when he was about 10. He looks pretty good for a guy who has been doing that for this long. He has a career spanning nearly three decades. Greg did everything from working undercover as a street crimes unit detective, to investigating financial crimes, murders, and crimes against children. For those 28 years, Greg has dedicated his life to protecting the community of Cleveland and giving back to the town in which he grew up.

Today, Greg serves as a senior instructor at FLETC, working as program coordinator for the Case Organization and Presentation Training Program, the Internet Investigations Training Program, and as assistant program coordinator for the Intelligence Analyst Training Program. Greg has a wealth of knowledge in these areas. His colleagues call him—this is a quote, their words, not mine—a real “subject matter expert” with the kind of expertise that can only come from real-world experience. Through the lesson plans and course materials he develops, Greg strives to impart the firsthand knowledge he gained on the force to his students so that when they leave his class, they are able to effectively build cases, conduct investigations, analyze information, and ultimately catch the bad guys.

At FLETC, Greg's colleagues also refer to him as an “Energizer bunny.” Some of my colleagues have referred to me in those same terms. I think it is a compliment—I hope so—and in his case, I am sure it is. His energy and his passion for his work inspire other instructors and keep his students engaged.

Given his dedication to his students and to the FLETC mission, Greg has earned the respect of his peers and FLETC leadership alike. It is no wonder, then, that Greg King was named FLETC instructor of the year for 2015. Think about that—instructor of the year for the entire school. It is clearly a well-deserved honor.

When Greg isn't training law enforcement professionals, he spends time with his family—his wife Shelley, their two daughters Lela and Shayla; and their son Rayshawn. I want to give my special thanks to Greg's wife Shelley and to their two daughters and their son for sharing him with us—with the people of Cleveland and now the people of the United States—for not just 28 years but 38 years in all. He has dedicated countless hours, I am told as

well, to his community and to his country in addition to that.

In his 10 years at FLETC, Greg King has helped train countless law enforcement officers, who have used the valuable lessons from his courses every single day to arrest criminals, to protect our fellow citizens, and to help keep Americans safe around the world.

FLETC has four core values that the agency and their employees attempt to abide by, and I am going to mention those today: No. 1, respect; No. 2, integrity—one of our former colleagues, Alan Simpson, the Senator from Wyoming, used to say about integrity: If you have it, nothing else matters. If you don't have it, nothing else matters. Integrity is the second value I want to mention for FLETC. So respect, integrity, service, and excellence.

I like to say that one of the things we need to focus on is to have excellence in everything we do as a country, here in the Senate and across the country. If it isn't perfect, make it better. And that is one of the core values for FLETC.

Respect, integrity, service, and excellence. I have mentioned that those values actually look a little bit like some of the values we embrace in the office from the State that I am privileged to represent. Greg has lived this one, using his own experience, to make the next generation of law enforcement officers and our country even better prepared to face the threats of tomorrow.

Greg is just one shining example of the critical work being done by more than 1,000 instructors at FLETC. These instructors make it their own mission to ensure that law enforcement personnel across our country are well prepared for whatever they might face on the job.

So to Greg, to all of the men and women at FLETC, and to everyone at the Department of Homeland Security, I thank you for your hard work day in and day out, I thank you for your service to the people of our country, and I urge you to keep up the good work.

Some of us travel on trains. Some of us travel on buses. Some of us travel on airplanes and helicopters, in our own cars, trucks, and vans. I do a combination of those, but I do a fair amount of travel in the air. I was a naval flight officer for many years. I am a retired Navy captain. I spent a lot of time in Navy airplanes. I love the Navy. I loved serving in the Navy. But now they don't let me—they let me ride in a commercial plane. Sometimes we get to fly in military planes, too, which is a kick. But when you fly commercial aviation, at the airport you generally go through a security check, and they want to make sure you are not carrying anything in your luggage or anything on your person that is inappropriate or illegal. And you have to be confronted by usually a series of TSA officers. I just want to remind us all that they are there to protect us. That is their job, to make sure the

planes we get on, whether they are going 200, 300, 400 miles or 2,000 or 3,000 miles to go from one side of our country to the other side or one side of the world to the other side—the job of the TSA officers is to protect us. They have a very tough job, and there is actually a tension in the job that exists because of the work they do.

On the one hand, every day there are tens of thousands of travelers, maybe hundreds of thousands of travelers, pulsing through our airports, trying to get from a terminal, from a gate, onto a plane in time to catch their flights. In some cases, they have had to recheck their bags. They have had to go through maybe unloading their suitcases and showing that what they have in their suitcases is not inappropriate or illegal. There is a rush to get through to try to catch their flights. TSA is there. In some cases, they slow down that traffic, that flow, and they slow down that flow of traffic in order to make sure that what all of us passengers every day are carrying in our suitcases or briefcases or purses or on our bodies is not inappropriate and is not illegal. They do it to protect all of us. Sometimes the TSA folks get a little bit frazzled. I would say we would, too, if we had to do the work they do.

A lot of times, when I fly commercial and when I go through the check-in, after they check my ID or whatever, I take it upon myself to say to the TSA officers—I tell them who I am, that I am a senior Democrat on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and I thank them for what they do. I say: We value your work and we appreciate it, and I just wanted you to know that. I can't tell you how many times a TSA officer has said to me: Nobody has ever thanked me before. Nobody has ever thanked me before.

Sometimes we can't pay people enough for the work they do, and they work hard for their money.

I would ask others, when you see somebody, especially TSA officers who go out of their way in spite of all of the hustle and bustle and pressure on them—they manage to still be polite, courteous, and helpful—thank them. It might be the first time. You may become the first person who has ever said “thank you” to them.

At the end of the day, one of the things that means a lot to me is whenever people thank me for my service to our country, whether it was in uniform or as Governor, Senator, or here today. So I urge you to do that. When I do that, it makes me feel better and it makes them feel better too.

Mr. President, I am looking around the Senate Chamber, looking for Democrats or Republicans who are rushing to get to the podium to say something. I don't see anybody rushing.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

COMMEMORATING THE BUILDING OF THE SSN 791 SUBMARINE “USS DELAWARE”

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, just a short note. I think it is important, especially for those who are privileged to live in the First State—the first State to ratify the Constitution.

Delaware ratified the Constitution on December 7, 1787, before any other State did so. For 1 week, Delaware was the entire United States of America, and then we opened it up to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Louisiana, and others. It turned out pretty well. It was a great week.

I think that because our State is remarkable in starting the whole country, we have a lot of ships—submarines or aircraft carriers—named after it. It has been decades since there has been any naval vessel named after the First State.

A couple of years ago, Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the Vice President, and I joined Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to announce that work would begin in a few years from that point—work would begin building a fast attack nuclear submarine. It would be called the *USS Delaware*, and the number of the ship would be SSN 791.

This Saturday in Newport News, VA, Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the Vice President, who is officially the sponsor of the submarine, will be there to join Secretary Ray Mabus. I will have the good fortune of joining them for the keeling, which is the first step in the construction of a brandnew vessel, the *USS Delaware*, SSN 791.

These submarines are not built in a day. This is a project that will take a couple of years, but a very good thing for our State and I hope for our country is about to begin; that is, the adventure of building a submarine that will help defend our country, help keep the sea lanes open, and better ensure that we remain a nation that is brave and free.

I mentioned earlier in my brief remarks that I spent some years of my life in the Navy—5 years in a hot war in Southeast Asia as a P-3 aircraft mission commander, and toward the end of those 5 years as a P-3 aircraft mission commander I was a naval flight officer. Then, for another 18 years, I was a P-3 aircraft mission commander in the Reserves, chasing Soviet subs all over the world.

We would train with American submarines, and we would track fast attack boats. It is a fast attack boat that will be built and named after Delaware. We would track ballistic missile submarines, American submarines. We would also track those from other