

Cyber Command. Cyber warfare is taking place every day. It is a domain of war that our Nation must dominate just as we do on land, at sea, and in the air. At the rate electronic warfare is growing, I believe elevating Cyber Command to a combatant command is vital to ensuring that the United States is fully prepared for cyber warfare and has unparalleled capabilities in that domain.

Does my colleague from Arizona feel the same?

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I strongly agree with my friend from Montana.

Elevating Cyber Command is one of the most critical pieces to ensuring our Nation is at the forefront of the rising threats abroad. Earlier this year in the Armed Services Committee, I held a hearing on Cyber Command. I was told by the commander of Cyber Command, ADM Mike Rodgers, that this elevation would make them faster, generating better mission outcomes. These are the individuals we have leading the fight against ISIS on the newly established online battlefield—better mission outcomes is something we need.

At a time when we are also debating what the entire combatant command structure should look like, one thing is clear: Cyber is growing, and its command structure needs to grow as well. I look forward to ensuring this debate is settled in conference and Cyber Command is elevated to a combatant command.

Does my colleague from Montana agree?

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I do share my colleague from Arizona's commitment to elevate Cyber Command to a combatant command in conference. The House NDAA includes a provision to elevate Cyber Command, and I stand with eight bipartisan Members of the Senate, including my colleague from Arizona, who support this effort. It is paramount that the final fiscal year 2017 NDAA that goes to the President's desk includes this provision.

Can my colleague from Arizona further describe the value that elevating Cyber Command would bring?

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for years, our enemies have been setting the norms of behavior in cyber space while the White House sat idly by hoping the problem will fix itself. With the elevation of Cyber Command, we are able to ensure we set ourselves on the right course for this new form of warfare. And we will do it without creating a hollow force. Just as it would be unacceptable to send a soldier to battle without a rifle, it is unacceptable to deprive our cyber forces the basic tools they need to execute their missions. We must remain committed to ensuring Cyber Command has the authority, the funding, and the tools it needs to succeed.

I look forward to the continued work on this issue with my colleague from Montana and to working in conference to ensure this elevation. I understand

my colleague from Montana has ensured the Defense appropriations legislation complements our efforts in cyber command.

Can you elaborate on your efforts?

Mr. DAINES. My colleague from Arizona is correct. My provisions in the Defense appropriations legislation states that the Department of Defense has the funding needed to elevate Cyber Command to a combatant command this year. We cannot wait for our enemies to outmaneuver us on this new battlefield. Elevating Cyber Command to a combatant command is one of the best ways we can ensure our troops have the authority they need to succeed.

I want to thank my colleague from Arizona for his commitment to a continued effort on the elevation of Cyber Command and thank him for his continued hard work on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

GUN VIOLENCE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from June 15, 2016, in the Huffington Post, regarding the Orlando shooting and the urgent need for the Senate to take action on gun control.

The material follows:

[The Huffington Post, June 15, 2016]

ON GUN VIOLENCE—LET'S COME TOGETHER
AND STOP THE HEARTBREAK

(By Senator Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee)

Columbine. Virginia Tech. Fort Hood. Tucson. Aurora. Newtown. Navy Yard. Isla Vista. Charleston. Umpqua. Colorado Springs. San Bernardino.

And now Orlando is etched into the list of places in America that have been forever scarred by gun violence.

In the aftermath of each of these deadly mass shootings, we express our horror, our prayers for the victims and survivors, our condolences, our thanks to the courageous first responders—and of course, we must and we should. But words are not enough.

After the horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School four years ago, I was convinced that Congress would finally take action to address that epidemic of gun violence that kills more than 30,000 Americans every year. But only four Republicans were willing to join with 51 Democrats and independents, and so commonsense gun safety legislation was once more derailed.

That's why I am so proud that Senator Chris Murphy—joined by his Connecticut colleague, Senator Richard Blumenthal—took to the Senate floor with a simple message: Enough is enough. The Senate must address this issue with a vote.

We may not be able to prevent every tragedy, but there is so much we can do to save lives and protect our communities. And we can do it while still protecting the Second Amendment. We should start by taking these six commonsense steps right now:

We can pass legislation to prevent a suspected terrorist from buying firearms or explosives.

We can pass legislation to keep military-style weapons off our streets. These are

weapons of war, and they do not belong in our communities.

We can expand background checks—an idea supported by almost 90 percent of the American people and a majority of NRA members—which will help keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.

We can pass the Gun Violence Intervention Act, which would allow families to go to court to seek a "gun violence prevention order" to temporarily stop someone who poses a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a gun.

We can increase funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), an important grant program that helps communities plan how best to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism.

We can protect our children by investing in the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, which helps schools develop school safety plans and provide critical safety training to school personnel.

We need a layered defense to protect our communities from criminals and terrorists who want to inflict mass casualties, and that is what these proposals would provide.

We know that tough gun safety laws work. We have seen it in other countries, like Australia. And we have seen it in my state of California which—after passing sensible laws—saw a 56 percent drop in gun violence between 1993 and 2010, according to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

People deserve to feel safe in their communities. They deserve to feel safe at work, at school, at a shopping mall, at a movie theater, at a health clinic, at a night club.

As elected officials, we take an oath to protect and defend the American people. Right now, we are failing at our most basic task—keeping our children and our families safe from harm.

It isn't enough for us to keep lamenting these tragedies. The people of Orlando, San Bernardino, Isla Vista, Newtown and so many other communities want more than words. They want action. And they want it now. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. BENNY GOODEN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Fort Smith School District superintendent Dr. Benny Gooden, who will retire at the end of June after a lifetime of dedication to education.

Dr. Gooden has led the Fort Smith School District since 1986, and in those 30 years, he has proven himself to be a driving force in education at the local, State, and national level.

He made a career out of helping students and creating a solid education, to pave the way for a successful future for them. During his 50 years in education, he always put students first and fought to ensure the community created opportunities in their best interest.

Dr. Gooden has remarked to the School Superintendents Association that his best professional day was when Fort Smith voters approved a 20 percent tax increase to guarantee the district's financial stability.

He has been recognized for his career as a school administrator earning the American Association of School Administrators' Arkansas Superintendent

of the Year award and was ranked in the top 100 Outstanding School Administrators in North America by Executive Educator magazine. He was named Administrator of the Year by the Arkansas PTA in 1995, received the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Educator award from the National PTA in 1999, and a year later was the recipient of the Dr. Dan Pilkington Award by the Arkansas School Boards Association. These accolades are all well deserved.

Dr. Gooden is actively engaged in the legislative process at the State and national levels on behalf of education. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Association of School Administrators and served as the organization's president from 2012–2103. Dr. Gooden has served his community, State, and Nation in a remarkable way in pursuit of better education opportunities for Arkansas students.

He has been a resource for me over the years to keep up with the needs and challenges of our education system. Whether pursuing opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds, cheering the accomplishments of adult education graduates, or paving the way for advanced technology in the classroom, Dr. Gooden's dedication to the young people of Fort Smith has made a positive impact on the community. Because of this, Fort Smith will continue to benefit from Dr. Gooden's work long after his retirement.

I congratulate Dr. Gooden for his outstanding achievements in his career and thank him for his dedication to education, students and the community. I appreciate his friendship and enjoyed supporting his efforts to improve education. I wish him all the best in retirement and know that his wife Martha and the rest of his family will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM ROWLAND

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Fort Smith School District athletics director Jim Rowland who will retire in June after serving the school district for over half a century. Rowland's dedication to education and athletics in Fort Smith is nearly unprecedented.

Jim Rowland has been involved in Fort Smith's school district since 1963. He began work at Darby Junior High School as the head coach for track and football. In 1966, Rowland became an assistant coach to the football team at Northside High School and, in 1970, was named head coach at crosstown rival, Southside High School.

After a successful coaching career, Coach Rowland moved to the administrative sector becoming assistant principal in 1982 at Southside High School. Nine years later, Coach Rowland assumed the role of athletics director for Fort Smith Public School District.

Under his watch, both Northside and Southside High School won a combined

six State championships in football—more than any other school district in the 7A classification.

During Rowland's time as athletics director, he oversaw an extensive growth in athletics. Under his leadership, both Northside and Southside High school won State championships in track, volleyball, bowling, and golf.

His passion helped improve athletics in Fort Smith to a level not seen before. In 2009, Fort Smith School Board, in a unanimous vote, renamed Southside High School's stadium, Jim Rowland Stadium as thank you for his services.

I congratulate Coach Rowland for his outstanding achievements in athletics and education. I thank him for his service to the Fort Smith School District and the countless students he impacted, including me. I was on the Darby Rangers football team in eighth grade when he started his coaching career in Fort Smith, and I was a member of the Northside Grizzlies when he became an assistant coach at the high school. Coach Rowland was a role model and one of the most positive influences in my life, as well as so many others.

His efforts to foster growth in the district and enhance athletics in Fort Smith have become reality. I greatly appreciate his commitment to the schools and athletic programs, his guidance and friendship, and I wish him continued success in all of his endeavors. Fort Smith is fortunate to have had someone with his passion and dedication to the schools.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES DOLEZAL

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, on January 9, 1915, the Dolezal family scurried around a humble homestead in Hingham, MT. The house had no heat, no plumbing, and no modern conveniences to combat the bitter Montana cold. Jerry and Grace Dolezal had just welcomed a brand-new baby girl—Frances. Her brother Bob Dolezal says, "My father used to say, she was so small, she could have worn a ring as a bracelet." Frances was a premature breach birth, and the family took turns huddling around her crib, a small dresser drawer, refilling a hot water bottle each hour to keep the newborn warm. Frances would survive that night and many more. She celebrated her 101st birthday this last January.

I would like to take this time to recognize and honor her service to our country and her contribution to the children of Montana. We are the land of the free because of the brave, and as we continue to face foreign and domestic threats I am humbled by the service men and women who have protected and served. In 1942 the United States faced a shortage of military personnel due to World War II. In an effort to fill the void, the Women Accepted for Emergency Volunteer Service program, or WAVES, was created and allowed women to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

After her brother George Dolezal survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, Frances was anxious to do her part and graciously enlisted in July of 1943. She was stationed on Terminal Island in San Pedro, CA, for the next 2 years, serving as a second class aviation machinist mate, preparing airplanes before they were shipped overseas.

When the war ended, Frances returned to Montana and earned her bachelor's degree in education from the Western Montana College of Education, now University of Montana Western, in Dillon. Frances would go on to be a first grade teacher and serve the communities of Cutbank, Malta, Havre, Zortman, Ledger and Browning for over 25 years.

Frances was a tough teacher but fair. In Browning, where class attendance was low, Frances created an innovative cotton ball calendar tactic to motivate class participation. Her classes held the highest attendance rates and many of her schoolchildren would exit first grade with third grade reading levels. Her brother Bob says: "Her ability to motivate little ones was what I was always impressed with. She instilled in them to never quit; keep trying until you can succeed."

On Frances' 100th birthday she was showered with letters, cards, and gifts from her former students. One student, now a successful businessman in Billings, MT, made it a priority to be in attendance for the celebration. The young man thanked Frances and said that, among all of his teachers and college professors, Mrs. Ordway was his favorite.

In an effort to ensure all female World War II veterans receive their World War II service medals, Frances was recently honored by the Montana American Legion in Chinook, MT. Frances was pinned with her World War II Victory Medal in honor of her service from 1943 to 1945.

It is stories like Frances's, the Dolezal family, and numerous others that remind us of the importance of preserving these stories through efforts like the Veterans History Project. Though many people may never know her name, Montanans and Americans owe her our appreciation. Thank you, Frances, for your patriotism and commitment to the education of young Montana minds.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA ARAGON

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to call your attention to Christina Aragon, a recent graduate of Billings Senior High School. While in high school, Christina competed in track and field, gymnastics, was an active member of the National Honors Society and concert band, and was named the Gatorade Montana Track and Field athlete of the year in 2015. Christina is the youngest daughter of Chuck and Kathy Argon and is running her way into the record books.

Christina, known as Teeny by friends and family, is a remarkable track and