

Squadron in Hurlburt Field, FL. He was 27 years old.

Captain Roland was killed in combat at Camp Antonik in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was driving the lead vehicle in a convoy when that convoy was attacked by enemy combatants dressed as friendly Afghan forces.

It was a complex attack. The first warning that something was wrong came when an enemy combatant approached Captain Roland's vehicle. When he was within 5 feet of the vehicle, he began to raise his weapon. Without hesitation, Captain Roland's first thoughts were for the safety of his fellow servicemembers. He yelled "Insider attack" while radioing a warning to all vehicles in the convoy. Simultaneously, he drove in reverse, away from the gunmen, to protect his passengers.

Tragically, a split second later, the lead gunman who had approached the vehicle, shot Captain Roland, instantly killing him, but the message he had conveyed over the radio gave the other personnel in his convoy the opportunity to take cover and ready their weapons. Because of his warning, American casualties were fewer and the enemy combatants were neutralized, including the one who killed Captain Roland.

For his actions, Captain Roland was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for Valor. The citation accompanying the award read:

Captain Roland's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism and reflect distinct credit upon himself, the NATO Special Operations Component Command . . . and the United States Air Force.

Over the course of his military career, Captain Roland received several other awards, medals, and declarations, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal, and NATO Medal.

Captain Roland was born at Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, SD. His father, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Mark Roland, moved frequently for assignments, and Matthew grew up in Abilene, TX, and Albuquerque, NM, before the family settled in Lexington, KY, where Matthew attended Lexington Catholic High School.

In high school, it was clear to many that Matthew was a driven young man who knew what he wanted out of life. Tim Wiesenhahn, his cross-country coach at Lexington Catholic, remembered that. Tim said:

He really wanted to be successful. I like to say he was driven to succeed. You just kind of knew he was going to be a leader. . . . The best runners really work at it, and Matt really wanted to be successful, and he put in the work.

A friend of Matthew's from high school, Clint Roberts, saw the same determination in the future airman. He said:

I don't remember a time when Matt didn't know what he wanted to do with his life.

From the time we met at cross-country practice in high school until the last time I talked to him, Matt always seemed like he controlled his life and path in a way that everyone strives to.

Matthew attained the Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouting and graduated from Lexington Catholic in 2006. He entered the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, where he graduated in 2010 with a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering. Matthew then completed the rigorous special tactics program in 2012 to become a special tactics officer. As an STO, he was a team leader who supervised combat preparedness training for a 35-member team. He was a military static line and free-fall parachutist, Air Force combat scuba diver, and a joint terminal attack controller. He led reconnaissance, strike, and recovery missions. He was deployed three times over his 5 years of service in the Air Force, twice to Afghanistan and once to Africa, and wherever he served, he gained a reputation as a rock during stressful times, always cool under pressure yet always easy to befriend.

Capt. Ben Self, a fellow special tactics officer, said:

The attribute that stood out to me most was his unflinching stoic presence when we needed it most. I relied on Matt when times were toughest, and I will continue to do so as his memory lives on through all of us.

"Matt was anything but typical," says Col. Paul Brister, his commander. "On the battlefield, he was a lion—lethal, precise, humble and compassionate. He was always flawless. I'm convinced I learned more from him than he could ever learn from me."

Another airman said of Matthew: "He was unquestionably our leader . . . not just by the [regulations] or rank, but through his ability to command our respect and trust as men."

A letter written to Matthew's parents after his death revealed what Matthew did when off duty. "Besides Matt's great qualities as a teammate, air commando and USAF officer, Matt has two memorable habits," wrote LTC John Sannes and CSM Dwight Utley.

The letter continued:

He loved to walk around in his American flag shorts, and he loved his mom's chocolate chip cookies. As a testimony to Matt's generous heart, he burned his legs helping a contractor weld a gate while wearing his flag shorts, and he always shared his cookies with the guys on his team.

Matthew's loved ones are foremost in our thoughts as I share his story with my Senate colleagues and the entire Nation today. They include his parents, Colonel Mark and Barbara Roland; his sister, Erica Roland; his niece, Willamina Roland; his grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Earl Roland; his grandmother, Rita Thomas; and many other beloved family members and friends.

Matthew's final resting place is Arlington National Cemetery, not far from where we stand. He was buried with full military honors.

One of Matthew's fellow airmen said this about hearing of his death:

[Matthew] brought America to the tent flaps and mud walls of our enemies on two continents. . . . He did not compromise on what he believed, and the nation is lucky he spent his time and energy protecting her.

I couldn't agree more. I am sure my colleagues agree that America is indeed lucky to have had Capt. Matthew D. Roland fighting for our freedoms. I would like his family to know that the Members of the Senate honor his service and his sacrifice and will be forever grateful.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been asked a number of times walking into my office this morning if there has been an agreement on the Zika funding and the continuing resolution, which is to keep our government open and funded. No, we have not is the answer. We have made progress. I am encouraged by the headway we have made. But as I said before, as Democrats, we are going to be cautious. There is still work to be done before we can say there has been an agreement made.

TERROR ATTACKS IN NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, AND MINNESOTA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, many Americans are taking the news about this weekend's terror attacks in New Jersey, New York, and even Minnesota very seriously. As a country, we are always stunned when these violent acts occur, and we are absolutely sickened by the acts of violence of this terrorist activity. We grieve with the victims, their families, and their loved ones.

I had a long, thorough briefing today by the FBI. I appreciate their good work always. They have a difficult job doing everything they can to make sure we are safe.

I am aware of the many people injured in these cowardly attacks, including police officers. I wish them all a full and complete recovery. Despite the many injured, we are very grateful that no one was killed in these attacks. It is a credit to both law enforcement and America's terrific, good, brave first responders.

Earlier today, the suspect wanted in connection with these cowardly attacks was shot and apprehended by police officers, but, of course, not before he wounded two of these police officers. These officers' quick response most likely kept Americans safe.

These events remind us of these brave men and women who risk their lives every day to protect the American people. First responders in New York, New Jersey, and Minnesota rushed into danger this weekend to protect innocent people. They certainly saved lives. Now we must do everything we can to ensure justice is

served and law enforcement gets the support needed to conduct their investigation.

It is not enough to simply offer help after these heinous attacks take place. Congress must do more to prevent these acts of terrorism altogether. There are things we can do, and some of them are really easy. Right now, as we speak, there is a loophole in our law that allows potential FBI terror suspects to legally purchase guns and explosives. Stop and think about that for just a moment. A person with suspected ties to terrorism can walk into a store now and buy all of the explosives, all the guns, and all the ammunition they want.

In Nevada, a man who has been so charitable has set up a camp for children every summer. It costs him lots of money. It is in a beautiful part of the mountain area right outside of Las Vegas. We have, within 10 minutes of Las Vegas, a 12,000-foot mountain. At the foot of those mountains, he has a beautiful camp.

Here is what they are doing now. You can go to a gun store in Las Vegas, and you can buy explosives. They put them up in the trees. We don't have that many trees in Nevada. They will put explosives up in a tree, and they shoot at it, and it blows up. It blows up the tree and anything around it. That is for sport.

Anyone can walk into a gun store and buy explosives. It doesn't matter who it is. You can also be a terrorist and do the same thing. Again, I ask everyone to think about that. A person with suspected ties to terrorism can walk into a store now and buy all of the explosives they want. They can buy all the guns they want.

The so-called terror gap is outrageous and terribly reckless. How can something like this go unaddressed in modern-day America?

Democrats have tried repeatedly for the past year to close that loophole, but we have been prevented from doing that by the Republicans. We can argue from now on about whether this bill could have prevented this weekend's attacks, but one thing is for sure: It could prevent the next attack.

But we know this loophole shouldn't exist. We know terror suspects shouldn't be given a free pass to buy all the guns and all the explosives they want, and we know the American people want this loophole closed. Eighty-five percent of the people in Indiana, in Nevada, in Kentucky—85 percent of the people in America—support legislation keeping explosives and guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists. If you can't fly, why should you be able to buy a gun? If you can't fly, why should you be able to buy explosives? The only reason the FBI terror suspects are allowed to buy guns and explosives is simply because of Republican opposition. That is the reason.

This state of affairs defies belief. It is hard to believe that in America today an FBI terror suspect who cannot fly

on an airplane can walk into a gun store in Las Vegas, New York City, or anyplace and legally purchase explosives and assault weapons. But it is true because Republicans refuse to close the terror gap loophole.

In the aftermath of these attacks, our constituents are looking for us to help. They want to feel safe. They want to be safe. We can help provide that safety by closing the terror loophole, but Democrats can't do it alone. We need help from the Republicans.

Mr. President, I see no one seeking recognition, so I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 516, H.R. 5325, a bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

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

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

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, we have a bit of good news because earlier today the CDC, or the Centers for Disease Control, announced that it had lifted its travel advisory to not go into a section north of downtown Miami called Wynwood. It is the neighborhood where the first locally transmitted Zika virus was found. So the fact that they said today that this area is no longer considered an area of active transmission is certainly good news, not only for those who live there but for those businesses that are dependent on those who are planning to visit there. That is just one area of Florida.

There are now 835 active cases of Zika-infected people in the State of Florida. If you compare that to the number for the total United States, talking about infections, in 49 of the 50 States, it is 3,132. If you add our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico and the territories, fellow American citizens, 17,315 are infected with the Zika virus. In Florida, 86 pregnant women are infected with the Zika virus. The total in the Nation is 731. In Puerto Rico—pri-

marily there, although bringing in all the territories, it is 1,156. Combining Puerto Rico, the territories, and the United States, we are talking about close to 2,000 pregnant women infected with the Zika virus.

We know that the CDC has said that there is anywhere from a 1-percent to 12-percent chance—if a woman is infected in the first trimester of pregnancy, there is a 1- to 12-percent chance that her baby will be born with defects. If you do the math on the nearly 2,000 pregnant women, we are talking about a substantial number of birth defects, including the possibility of what we have heard about and seen—microcephaly, babies with a deformed brain and shrunken head. In Puerto Rico they already had one live birth of microcephaly and they had one who did not live after birth.

We can expect to see huge numbers coming on down the line. That is all the more reason for us—since we started our request for funding last spring—to get at this by doing a Zika vaccine. It is now ready to go into the FDA first trials. A vaccine is at least 2 years away, but we have to get started, and that costs money.

The administration has been robbing Peter to pay Paul, finding every little pot of money that it can borrow from since last spring in order to try to fund the preventive measures of a vaccine, mosquito control, and all the attendant health expenditures through our health care centers that are sponsored and paid for by the government, and particularly for the very poor. As a matter of fact, the government raided the Ebola fund of \$576 million to advance it to Zika. Well, we need to pay back all of those funds that were raided, and that is incumbent upon us now here at the last minute before we adjourn to go home to campaign before the election. You know, those words are suddenly similar to the words we used in early July, trying to get that done before the summer recess for the political conventions. Yet we did not.

The good news is that it looks as though there is now an agreement on Zika. As a result, we can come up with a funding bill to keep the government open until we can pass a permanent funding bill for this fiscal year starting October 1. We will pass a temporary one until sometime in early December. That will give us a chance to try to do the permanent one. In the meantime, the government has to stay open. We have to fund the functions of government, including national security and the U.S. Department of Defense.

So one would think that this bill would be all done, but, unrelated to Zika, there are other issues that are threatening the funding bill. At the end of the day, we will get it done. Some of the issues are over as arcane a subject as who is going to administer the issuance of domain names on the Internet. There seems to be some controversy over that. As a result, we are here at the last minute, at the last