

they interfered because they had a preference for one candidate. Maybe the next time they will interfere because they have a preference for another candidate or another party. The point is that, on this issue, we need to show unity.

Our allies are asking us: How is it that you can sit on your hands and do nothing in response to what is an obvious attack on your democratic process? How can you even be considering relieving sanctions on Russia after its attack on your democracy?

I hope we will quickly take up legislation to impose sanctions on Russia, to send a strong signal to Russia and to our NATO allies and others around the world that we will not stand idly by when we have that kind of attack on our democratic process, that we will act, and we will act now.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott P. Brown, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Samoa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 15 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown nomination?

Mr. FLAKE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 141 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hassan	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Brown	Heinrich	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cantwell	Heller	Rubio
Capito	Hirono	Sanders
Cardin	Hoeven	Sasse
Carper	Inhofe	Schumer
Casey	Isakson	Scott
Cassidy	Johnson	Shaheen
Cochran	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Stabenow
Coons	King	Strange
Corker	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Tester
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	Markey	Udall
Daines	McCain	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Murray	
Flake	Nelson	

NAYS—4

Booker	Harris
Gillibrand	Schatz

NOT VOTING—2

Alexander	Menendez
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

COUNTERING IRAN'S DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, last year the Nation was shocked by undercover videos produced by investigative journalists with the Center for Medical Progress exposing Planned Parenthood's sale of fetal body parts and the callousness with which Planned Parenthood officials described their grisly work.

As we know, as Planned Parenthood and its allies in the mainstream media hoped, outrage fades with time, and at-

tention turns—but not for long, for the abortion industry and its profiteers are never really beset by scandal. They are a scandal.

Just last month we got another reminder about the reality behind the talking points. Once again, it was the undercover journalists of the Center for Medical Progress doing the investigative journalism the mainstream media refuses to do. Once again, the video has been ignored by the pro-abortion media elite, whose principal interest is the story of the prosecution of the journalists for daring to speak this truth to their power.

The American people and their representatives in the U.S. Senate deserve to know what the new video shows. It shows the founder of Planned Parenthood's Consortium of Abortion Providers on a conference panel. She recounts a harrowing experience while performing an abortion: "An eyeball just fell down into my lap, and that is gross." Her remarks were greeted with laughter from the audience.

It shows another Planned Parenthood doctor stating: "The fetus is a tough little object, so taking it apart in the womb is very difficult."

This comment echoes a previous undercover video in which a Planned Parenthood doctor says that the bones of a 20-week old fetus were so strong that "I have to hit the gym for this."

The video shows the director of abortion services for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast saying that she sometimes uses forceps to "pull off a leg or two" to ensure an unborn child dies before being born—in other words, to avoid the moment when our Nation's laws might protect that child.

The video shows the medical director of Planned Parenthood in Michigan talking about surprising common ground between abortion doctors and pro-life activists.

We might actually both agree that there is violence in here. Let's just give them all the violence, it's a person, it's killing. Let's just give them all that.

That is not what they say in public. It certainly isn't what they tell their patients, the women who come into their clinics—just in private, at industry conferences, between networking opportunities and drinks at the open bar. Because they know—deep down, everyone knows the Center for Medical Progress videos shock, but they do not surprise. They don't teach us anything we don't already know. All they do is remind us of an inconvenient truth that demands our attention and our action.

It is certainly stirring the pro-abortion political machine into action. As expected, the Center for Medical Progress is once again the target of criminal and civil investigations designed to intimidate further questions about the abortion industry's methods and money. But the truth is out. It is there.

As we know, threats and intimidation are tactics of guilt and desperation of the losing side in every battle

that has ever been fought. If Planned Parenthood were what they have publicly declared themselves to be, they would welcome transparency. We all know why they hide because we know what they hide.

The question, as always, is not what they will do, but what we will do. And the answer is always “as much as we can.” We can start by enforcing existing abortion laws and by reforming others, for example, making the Mexico City policy permanent so taxpayer money is not used to promote abortions to disadvantaged people overseas or ending abortion after 20 weeks when unborn children begin to feel pain. We can confirm Federal judges who follow the Constitution rather than reverse engineer their preferred policy outcomes.

The truth about abortion is spreading because of advances in medical imaging, because of brave journalists, tireless activists, compassionate doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. Statehouses are passing laws to protect American women and their children. The rising generation of young Americans is the most pro-life in decades because they know too.

Little by little, the truth is fighting free, like green shoots through the frost. One day soon, we will reaffirm our Nation's principles in their dignified fullness and avow, once again, that all men are created equal. All are entitled to life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SAM R. BRICE AND HOWARD A. “BUZZ” OTIS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, over the Memorial Day weekend, Alaska lost two really great men. These men were doers and they were builders in every sense of the word—both literally and figuratively. They were family people, and they were the best of friends to one another and to so many of us.

Today I wish to pay tribute to Sam R. Brice and Howard A. Otis—although, nobody called him Howard. We all knew him as “Buzz” Otis. I wish to take just a few moments this afternoon and tell Members of the Senate a little bit about these two very wonderful and great men.

You really couldn't find two more genuine Alaskans than Sam or Buzz. Yet neither was born in the State. They came to Alaska.

Sam grew up in Florida. He was educated at Columbia University in New York City. So he was a long way from New York City when he came to Fairbanks, AK. He served in the Marine

Corps, and then he moved to Alaska to help his parents, Luther and Helenka, establish a family construction business there in the Interior.

The story is pretty legendary about his mother Helenka. His mother spelled her name always with a lower case “h”. She didn't want the capital, and always made sure that you put the emphasis on the “len” in Helenka. She was really the epitome of an independent, self-reliant, really strong Alaskan woman, and she wouldn't let anyone forget that. She was very outgoing, vivacious, and had a heart of gold. I think it all wore off on her children. We certainly saw that in Sam.

It was said that Sam Brice never met a stranger. He was known for remembering every good deed that others did for him—no matter how many years in the past it may have been, decades after the event. He always generously returned the favor and always remembered to just say: “Thank you for that”—“thank you for that.”

Sam was one who just did good. He did good throughout the State. Those in rural Alaska have fond memories and affection for a man who helped build their communities and who was a leader. He was a leader of the Associated General Contractors, and in his later years was well known for roasting his fellow contractors at the AGC dinners. He had a great sense of humor, and that humor was really contagious.

The lines from Sam's obituary really say everything one needs to know about the man. They are:

In lieu of flowers, the family would wish all to remember Sam who lived by example, whether a handshake, a smile, or a contribution; he was always willing to lend a helping hand. Please remember all the different ways Sam has touched people's lives and consciously think how you can make the world a better place, as Sam demonstrated throughout his life. We ask you honor Sam's memory by emulating his compassion to others and be a friend to man.

Sam's memorial services were this past Saturday. I was unable to attend. I know the church was packed to overflowing. But as I was in another part of the State that day, I couldn't help but think of those words from the obituary about how we can individually and collectively think about how we can make the world a better place by being compassionate to others, being a friend to others, and living that in our daily lives, as Sam did—truly, truly a great man.

His friend Buzz Otis was also a transplant to Alaska. He grew up in Michigan. He was educated at Michigan State and came to Alaska in 1975, thinking he was just going to explore the State for a few months, like so many who come to our State. They think they are just going to come, take a peek, and then leave, but as with many Alaskans, that didn't happen with Buzz. In 1976, he founded a landscaping business in Fairbanks called Great Northwest, and this was really his ticket to business success and to a lifetime commitment to Alaska.

I have so many good friends throughout the State who are givers and doers. I just think we Alaskans have a tendency to want to give back to our communities. We help our neighbors. Buzz Otis did that in spades. He was involved in a lot of different levels politically. He was a strong supporter of mine and other members of the Alaska delegation. He served on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly and was elected as its presiding officer. He chaired the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and managed the North Pole Economic Development Corporation.

He was just involved in so many different aspects of his community. He was an outdoorsman and loved sports. He was a rugby player and had a rugby pitch. He loved the sport of dog mushing and encouraged young people to take it up. He was just always doing, always engaged.

He was blessed in life to have a great family and a wonderful, beautiful wife, Renee. That family standing together was a beautiful thing to watch in terms of the support they all gave one another, and it was truly so for Buzz, as a father and as a family man. I just can't think of anything better. Family really does come first.

That is ultimately what claimed the lives of these two wonderful men who had so much life left in them. Buzz's son was out on the river, and Sam and Buzz went out to check on him in Sam's plane. It wasn't out of the ordinary to do this. It was good weather, good visibility, and a pretty fair day for the Interior. It turns out that Buzz's son was OK, but the flight ended in tragedy. Sam's plane went down near the Salcha River on the morning of Saturday, May 27.

If only this story had a happy ending. Instead, it had somewhat of an Alaskan ending. Sam and Buzz gave their lives doing what so many Alaskans do; that is, looking out for one another, looking out for their families.

But we know we don't remember people for how they lost their lives. We remember people for how they lived their lives. Sam and Buzz were truly “salt of the earth” Alaskans. They were honest, hardworking, caring, and adventurous. They hired local people, they treated them well, and they were always welcomed back by the communities they served so faithfully. They really dedicated their lives to the betterment of the last frontier, and they never forgot family. Family was always first.

Everyone says that you can't say enough about these people, and it is true. So I will conclude my remarks and just simply express the Senate's condolences to the Brice and Otis families: to Joan Brice, to Renee Otis, to their children, and to their families—great families—destined to carry on the legacies of Sam Brice and Buzz Otis.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALEUTIAN CAMPAIGN

We just recognized Memorial Day last week in our respective States. I

was pleased to be with many Alaskans as we observed Memorial Day. We clearly revere those who serve in our military. In Alaska, we are home to more veterans per capita than any other State in the Union.

This year, I was privileged to host a most distinguished veteran at Alaska's official State veterans' memorial. This is located in a place called Byers Lake, which is midway on the Parks Highway between Fairbanks and Anchorage. It is extraordinarily picturesque. It is very tranquil. It is almost a spiritual place in many, many ways, as we look out to Denali in the background, being surrounded by the memorials for honoring those veterans who have served us.

But I was able to bring to that gathering a very distinguished veteran, our Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, a former Navy SEAL.

This following week, just on Sunday, I was able to do yet another Memorial Day. Our focus was not on those who gave their lives on foreign soil but in a battle for American soil. Our focus this past Sunday was on what is known as the "forgotten battle" of World War II. It was the bombing and subsequent occupation of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska by Japan. It was a yearlong campaign, and for those of us in Alaska, it is a campaign that we often speak about and we share the stories. There are veterans of that campaign who are still around today, sharing stories with us. They are living legends, if you will.

I recognize that for many, if you were to ask them whether the United States has ever been occupied—occupied in World War II—they wouldn't know. I think, unfortunately, the name the "forgotten battle" may be just exactly that. Most Americans don't recognize that the Aleutians were occupied by the Japanese, that Americans were killed in defending our homeland, and that some of the indigenous people were either transported to Japan as prisoners of war or evacuated to the southeastern coast of our State, a thousand miles away.

Making sure this "forgotten war" is not forgotten is a mission for me. It is an important part of our Nation's history. Again, that Aleutian Campaign was a yearlong campaign—fighting weather and terrain with equipment that was clearly not up to the challenge—to reclaim U.S. territory from a determined Japanese force.

A little bit of the history: On June 3, 1942, Japanese forces bombed Dutch Harbor and, over the succeeding days, occupied the islands of Attu and Kiska. These islands were occupied by Native people who had been there over a thousand years.

It was not until May of 1943 that Attu was retaken, and 549 U.S. and Allied troops were killed in combat. But there is evidence that the U.S. and Allied losses in the Battle of Attu were much higher as a result of exposure, disease, Japanese booby-traps, friendly

fire, and frostbite. Let me just tell you, the elements out there in the Aleutians are particularly harsh. When you don't have the equipment, it makes it even more so.

The war in the Aleutians came at a great price for our Native people who had lived on those lands for thousands of years before the war. The homes were burned, churches were burned, and 881 of the Aleut residents of 9 separate villages were relocated to abandoned mining and fishing camps in Southeastern Alaska, where they were forced to live under some pretty tough conditions.

At the remembrance event that I attended in Alaska on Sunday, some of the evacuees were at the ceremony. They were there. They shared their stories about what it meant to literally be ripped from their village—without having any idea what was really going on—and then sent to an area that may have been a foreign country to them. On the Aleutian Islands, the environment is entirely different from that of a cannery in in Southeast Alaska. But what was extraordinary about these evacuees was, despite the very harsh, difficult, and, in many cases, horrible conditions, they never gave up. They didn't give up hope, and they certainly didn't give up their patriotism. Twenty-five men from the evacuated villages chose to join the fight. Three men joined the retake of Attu. All were awarded the Bronze Star for their valor.

I think it is important to remember that the many lessons to be learned from the Aleutian Campaign. America once perceived itself as a nation oceans away from foreign threats. Today, I think it is unthinkable for us to think that any of our territory could be occupied by a foreign power. But we must never forget that during World War II, a portion of the United States was occupied, and it was occupied in those days, as today, because Alaska is a strategic location. These lessons cannot and should not be lost to history.

We all know the saying that those who forget history are condemned to repeat it. The Japanese incursion occurred less than a decade after GEN Billy Mitchell testified that Alaska is indeed the most strategic place in the world. The incursion taught our Nation a vital lesson—that the defense of America begins in Alaska. Fortunately, the lessons of the Aleutian Campaign and Alaska's strategic location are not lost on today's military planners.

Let me walk you through what we see in the State of Alaska right now, recognizing the proximity of Alaska to some of the hot spots around the world, whether it is North Korea, Russia, or China. Alaska is seeing a renaissance when it comes to our military presence. We see it at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where Air Force F-22s and AWACS launch to acknowledge their Russian counterparts that are flying in the Air Defense Identification

Zone. We see it at Eielson Air Force Base, which is preparing to receive two squadrons of F-35s beginning in 2020. We see it in the soldiers of the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Anchorage, who are now waiting deployment to Afghanistan. We see it in the soldiers of the 1st Stryker Brigade, who will soon begin their rotation of pre-deployment training at the National Training Center. We see it in the crews who are staffing ballistic missile radars in the State, looking very carefully at North Korea. We also see it in the patriotic construction workers who will begin building the new long-range missile discrimination radar at Clear Air Force Station this summer and on the missile fields of Fort Greely, ready to intercept an ICBM aimed at the North American continent from wherever. We see it in the Navy SEALs who train in Kodiak and in the coastguardsmen who protect our coastline from Metlakatla in the south, all the way north to the Arctic.

I think it is very clear that never again will the United States leave Alaska undefended, which brings me back to the characterization of the Aleutian Campaign as the forgotten battle. Seventy-five years ago, U.S. and Allied troops were called upon to repel an invader who occupied U.S. soil. We in Alaska, particularly, will never forget that fact, but neither should America.

Ignoring the fact that war has been, in fact, waged on U.S. soil in this last century is a dangerous and a tragic thing. Let's resolve on this 75th anniversary of the start of the Aleutian Campaign that the forgotten battle is be forgotten no longer.

As I prepare to leave the floor, I would be remiss if I didn't add that at the remembrance event in Unalaska this weekend, it was not only an opportunity for many of the remaining evacuees to come together in Alaska—for some it was their former community; others were from the Pribilof, Kiska, and Attu. It was a coming together. It was a homecoming for some, but there was also an effort to bring together many of our veterans who had served in the Aleutian Campaign and whose only exposure to the Aleutians was when they came in to defend that territory. To have the exchange between those who had been forced from their homeland and those Americans, those veterans who had come to help—to have them united in a conversation for the first time ever was an exceptional American story.

Over the course of 3 days, the sharing of stories was a remarkable opportunity for us. I had a chance to speak with one of our World War II veterans who said: I always knew what our part of the fight was about, but I had no idea how what we were doing from the war effort had impacted these displaced people—the original people of the Aleutian Islands. To have that sharing, again, was a remarkable part of the story.

Then, to complete that picture, there were several individuals who were part of a Japanese film production company and there were to do the filming of this 75th remembrance because, as they said: This is an exceptional part of our history coming together too.

Recognizing, sharing that, and allowing the stories, again, to ensure that this is not forgotten was a very significant and, I think, healing opportunity for so many.

Madam President, I thank you for the opportunity to share this important part of our history, ensuring that the forgotten battle is not forgotten.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

DEPORTATION OF ANDRES MAGANA-ORTIZ

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, today the Secretary of Homeland Security has the opportunity to prevent an injustice and keep a family together. At 9 a.m. Hawaii time, Andres Magana-Ortiz was scheduled to report to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Honolulu to be deported from his home of nearly 30 years.

Andres was brought to America when he was only 15 years old. In the years since, he has raised three children who are U.S. citizens, is married to a U.S. citizen, has built a business, and has distinguished himself as a hard worker and a pillar of the South Kona community in Hawaii.

Andres' immigrant story is one familiar to so many American families. After working for more than a decade as a laborer on coffee farms across the Big Island, Andres saved enough money to buy his own farm. In the years since, Andres has taken on management of 15 other area coffee farms.

Suzanne Shriner, president of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, put it best in her letter of support for him when she said:

Mr. Ortiz is a true example of the American Dream. Rising from a farm worker to a farm owner, he has created a successful business through hard work.

He has sent his children to college. And he has given back to his community, by working with other farms and farmers to control an invasive pest. His story is why we need to find a path to citizenship for these vital members of our farming community.

Andres has three children. Victoria, age 20, is a junior at the University of Hawaii. Paola, age 14, and Hector, age 12, are still in middle school. Their lives will be shattered without their father.

Andres remains on very good terms with his first wife, Veronica Ledesma Magana. In a letter she wrote to me, Veronica shared how much Andres cares for his children and how devastated they would be if he is forced to leave. She said:

Andres is a wonderful father to our children. They depend on him for so much and need him during these years that are so important to their development as human beings and citizens of the United States. Paola and Hector are children with special education needs.

This has been very hard for us as parents, but together we have worked to help her through school and life.

I am not able to support this family by myself.

Andres is an amazing role model to my children. He is a patient, loving, and supportive father to them in whatever they need. Victoria, Paola, and Hector love Andres very much and would go through extreme emotional hardship if he is deported.

She continues:

My oldest daughter will need to halt her college career to help me support Paola and Hector, especially because this deportation would bar him from returning to the [United States] for 10 years.

My children deserve a father to care for them, they deserve the educational opportunities he can offer them, and the love he shares with them every day.

I couldn't agree more.

In September 2014, Andres received a stay of removal in order to pursue various paths to achieving legal status. In fact, he has a pending application to receive such legal status.

Last November, he applied for an additional stay. Without warning or explanation, the government changed its position in March 2017 and ordered that he be removed.

At that point, Andres filed for relief in Federal court. His case ultimately reached the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where his request for an emergency stay was denied. Although the Ninth Circuit found it could not stay his removal, the chief judge of that court, Judge Reinhardt, issued a powerful, concurring opinion that clarifies the injustice in this case and made a powerful moral argument against President Trump's immigration policy. Judge Reinhardt wrote:

It was fully within the government's power to once more grant his reasonable request. Instead, it has ordered him deported immediately. In doing so, the government forces us to participate in ripping apart a family. Three United States citizen children will now have to choose between their father and their country. If they leave their homeland with their father, the children would be forced to move to a nation with which they have no connection. All three children were born in the United States. None has ever lived in Mexico or learned Spanish. Moving with their father would uproot their lives, interrupt their education, and deprive them of the opportunities afforded by growing up in this country. If they remain in the United States, however, the children would not only lose a parent, but might also be deprived of their home, their opportunity for higher education, and their financial support.

Subjecting vulnerable children to a choice between expulsion to a foreign land or losing the care and support of their father is not how this nation should treat its citizens.

President Trump has claimed that his immigration policies would target the "bad hombres." The government's decision to remove Magana Ortiz shows that even the good hombres are not safe.

Mr. Ortiz is by all accounts a pillar of his community and a devoted father and husband.

The court went on to say:

It is difficult to see how the government's decision to expel him is consistent with the President's promise of an immigration system with "a lot of heart." I find no such

compassion in the government's choice to deport Magana Ortiz.

We are unable to prevent Magana Ortiz's removal, yet it is contrary to the values of this Nation and its legal system. Indeed, the government's decision to remove Magana Ortiz diminishes not only our country but our courts, which are supposedly dedicated to the pursuit of justice.

Magana Ortiz and his family are in truth not the only victims. Among others are judges who, forced to participate in such inhumane acts, suffer a loss of dignity and humanity as well. I concur as a judge, but as a citizen I do not.

Judge Reinhardt made an important point, and I agree. The government has the power to prevent this family from being torn apart. Even now, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly can issue an administrative stay to let Andres stay in this country while the government processes his application to receive legal status.

Earlier this week, I spoke to Secretary Kelly on the phone to discuss Andres' case and to urge him to issue a stay that would allow him to stay in this country. Hawaii's congressional delegation has also written him a letter and provided a variety of other letters of support that Andres' friends, family, and neighbors have written on his behalf.

Secretary Kelly, I renew our call once more: Let Andres stay in our country. Let his children have a father present and active in their lives. It is not too late to keep this family together.

This entire ordeal speaks to the fear and anxiety spreading through immigrant communities across our country. Even the good hombres, as Judge Reinhardt called them, are at risk of being torn away from their families.

In an email, a spokesperson for ICE said: "While criminal aliens and those who pose a threat to public safety will continue to be a focus, DHS will NOT"—and the word "not" is in all caps—"exempt classes of removable aliens from potential enforcement." This is chilling. It means that 11 million people in our country will live in fear that they could be deported at a moment's notice.

We must pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship and which prioritizes the unity of families. Andres' case is a tragedy, if not averted. There will be more cases like his in Hawaii and across the country. We must continue to fight on behalf of the good hombres and not stop until we succeed.

I would like to conclude by reading part of a letter I received from Gerald Personius, one of Andres' friends and a fellow coffee farmer from Captain Cook. He said:

Andres is a courageous, honest, caring, and dedicated person. So I ask you as a citizen of our beloved country to do the best you can to help this man continue to pursue his citizenship. He will not let America down.

We cannot let Mr. Ortiz down.

I yield the floor.

Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Democratic leader.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to address the hearings that concluded just a few hours ago.

After hearing Mr. Comey's testimony today, America is stunned. The cloud hanging over this administration has just gotten a whole lot darker.

I commend both the chairman, Senator BURR, and the vice chairman, Senator WARNER, for the way they ran this hearing. The Senate and the American people are better informed as a result of their work. Few committee hearings in the history of the Senate have produced the kind of eye-opening testimony we heard today. In its wake, I would like to make a few points.

First, for weeks, media reports indicated that the President had directly and indirectly pressured the FBI Director to end the FBI's investigation into General Flynn. Innuendos and intimations swirled around. But we now know much more of the truth. There is now no doubt that Mr. Comey understood the President's request that he let go of the investigation into General Flynn—in a meeting during which it was discussed whether Mr. Comey would keep his job as FBI Director—as a direct effort to prevent that investigation from going further that looks a lot like a quid pro quo.

During questioning from a Republican Senator, Mr. RISCH, Mr. Comey told us that he took the President's conversation with him about the FBI investigation into General Flynn as a directive to scuttle that investigation.

It is clear that President Trump's legal defense is to refute Mr. Comey's account. Well, the President threatened Mr. Comey with the release of tapes of their conversations. Presumably that includes the conversation in which President Trump asked Director Comey to "let go" of the Flynn investigation. It is awfully curious that no one from the President's team will either confirm or deny the existence of the tapes when the tapes are the only way to prove that Mr. Comey's testimony, which came under oath, is false or misleading. If President Trump disagrees with anything the Director has said today, he should play the tapes for all of America to hear or admit that there were no tapes.

Second, Director Comey's contrasting view of the Clinton email case and the Russia case is telling. Mr. Comey did not wish to see a special counsel in the Clinton case because he looked at the facts and determined there wasn't a case for one. With respect to the Russia probe, the Director examined the facts and felt there was

enough potential evidence that a special counsel was warranted. Again, the contrast is telling.

Democrats and Republicans alike and the American people as well should be pleased that the investigation is in the hands of former Director Mueller.

Third, the hearing raised serious questions about Attorney General Sessions that he and the Justice Department must answer immediately. Senators WYDEN and HARRIS repeatedly asked Director Comey about Attorney General Sessions' involvement in the investigation before he recused himself. Director Comey didn't have direct knowledge of his involvement but made clear that he suspected that the Attorney General needed to recuse himself weeks before he actually did so and that he could not share the reasons for that in an unclassified briefing.

So we need to know the answers to a number of questions regarding the Attorney General. The Senate Intelligence Committee investigation and Special Counsel Mueller ought to get to the bottom of this matter.

In conclusion, Mr. Comey's testimony has been very enlightening, but there is much work ahead for investigators in Congress and those under the direction of Mr. Mueller.

Thank you.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 12, the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of Executive Calendar No. 65. I further ask that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate, and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 65, the Senate resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 722, with all postcloture time considered expired.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 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. Madam 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 MARTY SHORYER

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, every week for some months now, I have been coming to the Senate floor and I have been using the opportunity to talk about someone in my State, the great State of Alaska, who has made a difference. We call that person the Alaskan of the Week. These are individuals who are unsung in many ways and who are doing something for their community, for their State, and in many ways are inspiring everybody.

I am a little biased, but I believe I live in the most beautiful State in the country, probably the most beautiful place in the world, full of wonderful people and beautiful landscapes, and we certainly encourage everybody here in the Senate or those who are watching on TV to come to Alaska and experience it themselves, and they will have the trip of a lifetime, guaranteed. We are also blessed to live in a land that provides so much for our physical and spiritual needs. It is a very spiritual place.

Alaskans are hardy people; however, like anyplace in the country, people have tough times. Some people are more fortunate than others. But thankfully we have people all across our State—like we have people all across America—who give of themselves so that those in difficult situations can receive the care they need.

Today I want to take you to Kotzebue, AK, or what we often just refer to as Kotz. Kotz is about 550 miles northwest of Anchorage, 26 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska's Northwest Arctic Borough. About 3,000 people live in Kotzebue. It is one of our bigger villages, and it is a hub for dozens of smaller villages that dot this enormous, beautiful region. Like most of Alaska, it is cold in the winter, and it is beautiful now under a never-setting Sun. The midnight Sun in Kotz is high in the sky. There are wonderful people there.

Like most places in Alaska, particularly in smaller villages in rural Alaska, community is everything. People take care of each other. People band together to help each other overcome challenges that can exist in the extreme environments we have in Alaska.

Let me tell my colleagues today about Marty Shoryer, who is one of the very generous residents of Kotzebue and who is our Alaskan of the Week. Born in Kotzebue, Marty is the general manager of Kotzebue Electric Association, where he has worked for more than 24 years. He has been married to his wife Lucy since 1977. They have six children and seven grandchildren. In his free time, he fishes—very common—plays hoops, and loves to cook for his family. He is also involved in

the Boys and Girls Club and his Tribal government.

But here is why I want to talk about Marty and why he has been such an inspiration not only in Kotzebue but throughout the State. On Thanksgiving 2015, Marty got sick, and over the next several weeks, he had to go to the hospital repeatedly. While he was there, he noticed a group of people who would gather around the free coffee that was served at the hospital. He approached one of them, a woman named Jo-Ann, and asked a very simple question: "Why do you guys hang around here? What are you doing?"

She told him: "Well, we don't really have another place to go right now."

This disturbed Marty greatly. At that time of year in Kotzebue, it can get down to 20 and 30 below zero—a difficult place.

"You guys must be hungry," he said to Jo-Ann, and she said that they were. So the next day and the day after that—5 days a week—Marty and Lucy together used their own money and their own lunch hour during the work-week to make sandwiches—a simple act—30 to 40 sandwiches for that group at the hospital. Every day, every person who needs one gets a sandwich, sometimes turkey and cheese, sometimes caribou or sheefish spread. Marty is anxious for the salmon season to start so he can make salmon spread sandwiches. They also get a juice box and dessert. Simple but generous.

Recently, another generous Kotzebue resident, Sophie Foster, began making sandwiches as well, and before you know it, we have a whole community that is doing this, taking this simple example and getting involved. So now some people drop off cinnamon rolls or fruit. Others bring back bulk items when they travel to Anchorage. Dozens of people in Kotzebue, AK, are now helping in this effort because of Marty's simple act.

People like Marty and his wife Lucy make my State truly unique and a wonderful place. His generosity—doing something seemingly so simple: making a sandwich for someone who is hungry—has now had a big impact not only in Kotzebue but in Alaska. Marty didn't know the impact he would have when he began making sandwiches. "I was just trying to help a few people that day, make them happier."

Marty's actions have initiated a growing conversation in Kotzebue about how best to take care of people who need help. It has drawn attention to homelessness and hunger—very important issues not only in Alaska but throughout the country. Marty spurred this important conversation in Kotzebue and in our State through his simple actions, and that has inspired all of us.

Congratulations, Marty, for what you are doing, for your simple acts of inspiration, and for being our Alaskan of the Week.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I come to the floor today to highlight the importance of travel and tourism in our economy and also to make the point that we are welcoming of people from other countries—and we are welcoming of people in our country, as well—who want to be part, for a short time or a long time, of America. The travel and tourism business is an incredibly important part of the tourism economy.

Last month, I, along with my fellow cochairs of the Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus—Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR, Senator DEAN HELLER, and Senator BRIAN SCHATZ—led the Senate in the passage of a resolution recognizing the week of May 7 as National Travel and Tourism Week.

There are really good statistics—whether it is Missouri or West Virginia or the country at-large—on this topic. One out of every nine jobs in the United States depends on travel and tourism. It accounts for over 15 million jobs nationwide. International travel to the United States is our single largest export industry. The single largest thing where people bring money into our country is tourism to the United States. It generates a trade surplus of roughly \$87 billion. As to that trade surplus with foreign travelers, foreign travelers stay longer, they spend more, and they like us better when they leave—virtually 100 percent of the time—than they did when they got here. Even if they thought they were going to like us a lot, they wind up liking us more. If they questioned whether they were going to like us at all, they almost always wind up on the very positive side of that question.

So it is not only a huge economic benefit of \$87 billion, but it is also a huge foreign policy benefit—a huge diplomatic benefit. It is just like when students come here and go to school. They have a connection to the United States that is almost always positive. It is so positive that many of them would like to stay, with that bachelor's degree or that engineering certificate and degree, because they have liked what they found when they were here. So \$87 billion is the surplus from just international travelers to the United States. But all told, travel and tourism generates nearly \$2.3 trillion in annual economic input for our country.

In Missouri, it has been estimated that the tourism industry, which is usually right behind agriculture in the list of our top industries, provides more than \$15 billion in annual economic impact and directly supports almost 300,000 Missouri jobs. When international tourists come here and spend their money at hotels, restaurants, and shops, they are not only supporting U.S. businesses, but they are contributing to local, State, and Federal tax revenue.

We have a great deal to offer when it comes to attracting these international visitors. We also have a lot of

things we can do as a Congress to make a difference in how people travel and where they travel. We have a role to play in promoting the United States as a travel destination and in helping our State and local tourism economies be a part of that travel.

The Visa Waiver Program is sometimes questioned by some of our colleagues who say anybody can get on a plane in any of these visa waiver countries, and we particularly hear that when something bad has just happened in 1 of those 38 countries—Great Britain, France, or Germany. We hear: Anybody could come here because they don't have to go to the U.S. Embassy and get a visa. Except that is not how it works. That is not how the Visa Waiver Program works at all now. It does enable citizens of the 38 countries that we include to travel here for tourism and business for 90 days or less without the need to obtain a specific visa. By the way, in return, Americans go to those 38 countries without having to go to the Embassy of that country and get a visa and have an interview that allows them to travel there. So that is both ways.

Most importantly from our perspective, as to people who are coming here, the program has a lot of security built into it. For all the travelers who come, the Visa Waiver Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security. It works in consultation with the State Department. Visa waivers use a risk-based, multilayered approach to detect and prevent terrorists, criminals, and other bad actors from traveling here. If you have been in some country lately that we don't think you should have been in, if you have a history of travel back and forth to countries and we have had bad experiences with people who have been in those countries, not only do you not get a waiver but you are in for a much more extensive interview than if we were trying to interview everybody from all of those 38 visa waiver countries who wants to come to the United States.

The President announced about 4 months ago that we were going to have a more extensive visa process in countries that need a visa, but that also can be a more extensive visa process in countries that have visa waivers, if someone requires more vetting. If someone does not want to submit to additional vetting, then they don't have to come to the United States of America. Those kinds of questions are easily answered.

There are comprehensive vetting programs for individuals prior to the time they can get here—as well as when they get here—if they are in that visa waiver structure. So visa waiver works.

I think the visa program is working now with more extensive vetting than we have had in the past.

The program requires participants to have an electronic passport that has a chip in that passport that makes it virtually impossible to suggest that you

are somebody or to try to pretend that you are somebody who you are not. The passport is much more secure than it used to be—both our passports and passports from those countries.

In 2015, I worked with a bipartisan group of our colleagues to reform and improve this program and to secure that its robust security protocols would work as intended. We were also able to remove visa waiver eligibility for nationals of participating countries who have visited a country with a terrorism nexus, and for foreigners who participate who are originally from countries that may pose a terrorist threat. There are ways to screen that process that Americans should feel secure about. Frankly, it is a process that is getting better all the time. It is still not absolutely without risk. Travel has some risk. But thousands of people are bringing billions of dollars in tourism revenue to our economy, to see our country, and to pay our taxes. We ought to be sure we are minimizing the risk and maximizing the welcome for people we want to travel here.

I also worked with my colleagues twice now to offer a public-private partnership called Brand USA. The United States of America, just a few years ago, was one of the few countries in the world that made no real effort to encourage people in other countries to visit our country. In 2014, Senator KLOBUCHAR and I worked to reauthorize Brand USA through 2020. In a combination of visa waiver fees and private dollars, efforts have been successfully made to encourage people who want to be part of our economy—even for a short period of time, as a tourist. It is estimated that across all markets, each dollar of Brand USA marketing generated more than \$30 in visitor spending. Let me repeat: everywhere we spent a dollar of Brand USA—and that is a public-private dollar—more than \$30 came to the United States, it is estimated, because of that.

It is important for the Senate to support programs that work. Brand USA is one of those programs. The Visa Waiver Program and many others have significant, positive economic impacts on our country, on individual States, on local communities, and, by the way, on people whose business and travel necessarily take them to other countries.

Travel and tourism is one area where we have successfully worked together in a bipartisan manner. I hope we can continue that progress in this Congress. I will keep working with my colleagues to ensure that we have the right policies in place to keep Americans safe, while allowing our travel and tourism industries to continue growing and creating jobs.

Madam President, 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 (Mr. BLUNT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, when I came onto the floor, you were not presiding; you were on the floor talking about the Visa Waiver Program. It is an agreement we have with almost 40 other nations that allows for the free flow of visitors from those countries to our country. It is viewed, in part, as a way to promote tourism and help grow that part of our economy and the economies of the other 38 or 39 nations with which we already have this agreement. Some people believe it is a gaping hole for fomenting terrorism and giving terrorists the ability to infiltrate our countries and do mischief here and other places around the world.

I applaud the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Missouri, for actually explaining how the system works. It is actually not just a way to enhance and promote tourism, which is important to all of our economies, it actually enhances our security if done well, done right, and done correctly. I say to the Presiding Officer, the former chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, I appreciate very much your making those comments today.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS

I am going to do something today, Mr. President, that I have never done before. I have never come to the floor and actually read a resolution or a piece of legislation that we are going to be voting on later today. This is a resolution that came out of discussions yesterday as we were contemplating voting on additional sanctions with respect to Iran—sanctions not related to violations of the joint agreement on nuclear weapons. They appear to be in full compliance with what they professed to do, promised to do a year or two ago. There doesn't seem to be a question that they are doing what they promised to do, and that is good.

There is what we believe is an obvious violation of U.N. requirements that say the United Nations doesn't believe that Iran should be testing ballistic missile systems. Even though they have no nuclear weapons—we don't believe they are going to have them anytime soon; hopefully not, because that would help spark a nuclear arms race in that part of that world—we still have, along with the U.N., this prohibition against them developing and testing ballistic missiles. They have violated that a number of times, and a lot of other nations, including us, are concerned about that. We have before us this week and again next week legislation dealing with that.

My hope is that next week we will consider that legislation and have a chance to offer amendments to it. My strong hope is that we will not only be talking about our desire to see Iran fully comply with the U.N. guidelines but that we will also couple with that legislation sanctions dealing with Russia. This is a country that continues to

make mischief in this country and countries around the world.

Today, a lot of attention was riveted on the testimony by former FBI Director Jim Comey on whether there was an attempt by the Russians to influence our Presidential election last year. All 17 intelligence agencies in this country have decided unanimously that the question is not only did they attempt or want to influence the outcome of the Presidential election—they all say yes. The answer is yes. All those intelligence agencies say yes. The second thing they said is that they feel the Russians succeeded in what they wanted to accomplish because the person they wanted to see defeated—Secretary Clinton—lost, and the person they wanted to see win—Donald Trump—won and now serves as President of the United States.

The issue that is going on right now in the hearings before the Intelligence Committee involve whether there was collusion between the Trump organization and the Russians during or prior to the time of the election. Ultimately, we will find out the truth, and we will let the chips fall where they may.

I think we make a mistake in simply going forward and admonishing the Iranians for testing ballistic missile weapons while at the same time this effort by the Russians to really make a mockery of our election system and change the governance of this country is a far greater threat.

My hope is that when we come back and take up these issues next week, that we will not address only the one involving Iran but that we will address in a thoughtful way the actions the Russians have taken and not let them get away with this. That is the debate for next week.

In Iran, actually 2 or 3 weeks ago, they had elections. I have spoken about this before on the Senate floor. The elections they had were Presidential elections. Here in this country, we have Presidential elections every 4 years. As it turns out, in Iran they have them every 4 years as well. In this country, most people age 18 and older are eligible to vote. The percentage of people among the electorate who actually vote is not great. Actually, for the longest living democracy in the history of the world, it is sometimes a bit disappointing. But the percentage of people who turned out to vote in the Presidential election in Iran a few weeks ago approached 75 percent, which is a good deal higher, I believe, than what we have accomplished in recent years. They have a lot of young people in that country, and the average age of the 80 million people who work there is under the age of 25. It turns out that the young people—not like the young people in Vietnam and a bunch of other countries—they like our country. They want a better relationship with our country, and the voting that occurred in Iran 2 or 3 weeks ago actually reflected that.

President Ruhani ran on a campaign that included better relations with,

among others, the United States. And I think the election of a lot of mayors in places like Tehran, the capital of Iran, which has changed from a hardliner who didn't agree with President Ruhani's views on this matter—they were turned out of office. That is all a very encouraging development.

There are still people in that country who don't like us, and they wish us harm, wish us ill, and they support terrorism. This is a source of concern. But, particularly with the younger people there, it is a new day there, and I think that is encouraging. We shouldn't be blind to the mischief that some in their country would create, but we also shouldn't be blind to the encouraging things happening among the young people, especially reflected in the voting. We congratulate them on actually having an election where that many people voted.

In some other countries around the world where Muslim is the principal faith, they don't allow women to vote. They don't allow women to participate in the elections, and they don't allow them to get elected. In Iran, the elections in I think Tehran, in the city council alone—women do vote in Iran. They get to run for office. I think in the city council in Tehran alone, six women were elected to serve on the city council. So that is a positive.

We commend them for having elections, and it is their job to figure out whom they are going to elect. I am personally encouraged by the turnout and the participation, especially of women, the election of women, and the President and a lot of young leaders in that country who have different view of us and their willingness to work with us and other like-minded nations in the future.

On the heels of the election, roughly 2 weeks later, there were terrorist attacks in London, in Britain, I think in Australia in the last couple of weeks, and, in the last few days, in Iran. Their Parliament was attacked. You can imagine terrorists coming in and attacking those of us who work in this building, whether they happen to be the pages or Senators or staff. That is what happened in Tehran a couple of days ago at 10 o'clock in the morning, with folks breaking into Parliament and trying to kill folks. They also attacked a sacred site—I think a mausoleum—in another part of the country. Close to 15 people were killed, and many times that number were wounded, some very seriously.

On the heels of that attack and on the heels of the election, on the heels of the attack by ISIS—in both of the attacks on Iran, the attacks were masterminded apparently by ISIS. We don't know for sure given that ISIS tries to take credit for attacks they had nothing to do with or little to do with. But there are people in Great Britain who have lost loved ones, family members, friends. They are suffering, they are hurting, and they are mourning today, and the same is true of Iran.

Great Britain is one of our two or three closest allies in the world. They are like brothers and sisters to us, and we feel a special kinship and extend our condolences to those whose lives have been ended, whose lives have been shattered, and whose lives will be forever changed.

While we do that with our friends and allies in Britain who suffered from these attacks by ISIS, on the heels of a different kind of election in Iran—an encouraging election in Iran—and similar attacks by ISIS on Iran—some suggest it is because they have a willingness to actually have a better relationship with us, and maybe that is what drew the attacks by ISIS. In any event, we certainly express our condolences to the good people in Iran who lost their brothers, sisters, parents, aunts, uncles, and sons, and we remember them today.

The resolution has been drafted by Senator CORKER, the chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, and by Senator CARDIN. It is a resolution that is not very long. I am going to read it. It is a resolution that dates to these attacks and mentions both countries I just mentioned—Great Britain, our ally, and Iran, with which we have had difficulty for the last 30, 40 years but which is now interested in a new day with us. To the extent that we can find a way to work together, especially in commerce, the Iranians want to buy aircraft from us. They want to buy Boeing aircraft. They don't want military aircraft. They have an airline which is just awful. It is decrepit, old, aged, and they want to buy \$10 to \$12 billion worth of Boeing aircrafts, passenger airlines. I would say let's sell to them. The idea is, if we would do that, we would not just put 5 or 10,000 people to work, we would provide job employment opportunities for even more people than that in this country. Why wouldn't we be interested in that? I hope we will allow that to go forward. It would be good for us and also it would be good for them, and maybe it would provide a foundation for working more closely together. I don't know if we would have the kind of relationship that we have with Britain, but as a veteran of the Vietnam war, I can state that when I go for a run some mornings—when I stay down here and go for a run early in the morning, I run down to the Lincoln Memorial. I always run by the Vietnam Memorial. I take my fingers, and as I go along the wall, I let my fingers brush over the names of the people with whom I served, and there are 55,000 who died in that war. They were our friends, our colleagues, our family members, people we literally served with at that time, and they are gone. Yet somehow we have been able to let bygones be bygones and develop a close, august friendship with the Vietnamese. We are their strongest trading partner. They are buying a lot of aircraft from us these days, and we are now going to sell weaponry to them.

We are not going to do anything like that with Iran, certainly with respect

to weaponry, but if we can get over finally our difficulties of war and hostilities and so forth with the Vietnamese, maybe we can someday, with a change in leadership with Iran, begin to look more toward a constructive relationship in the future.

The other thing I want to do is, I just want to take this resolution and actually read that which Senators CORKER and CARDIN and their staffs have worked on and thank them for their good work.

There will probably be a vote later this evening in wrapup, where there will be a unanimous consent request that this bipartisan resolution be approved. I think it is a good thing, it is the right thing, it is a fair thing. How would we want to be treated by other countries if ISIS attacks us and kills our people? We want them to be sympathetic and have some feeling for us and not be quiet about it. That is essentially what we want to do here.

The resolution goes something like this:

Condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, Iraq, Australia, and Iran.

It offers “thoughts and prayers and sincere condolences to all of the victims, their families, and the people of their countries.”

Whereas since May 22, 2017, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has claimed responsibility for multiple terrorist attacks against civilians that have left more than 180 dead and many more wounded.

Whereas ISIS frequently claims attacks perpetrated by individual actors or other groups for propaganda purposes.

Whereas the people of the United Kingdom are grieving following two terrorist attacks claimed by ISIS in London on June 4 and Manchester on May 22 that targeted and killed innocent men, women, and children.

Whereas government forces in the Philippines are currently fighting ISIS militants in Mindanao, including ISIS-affiliated fighters from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chechnya, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, who launched an assault in Marawi City on May 23 in an apparent effort to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia.

Whereas ISIS has claimed responsibility for two explosions in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing three policemen.

Whereas ISIS targeted Coptic Christians in Egypt during an attack on a bus on May 26, killing 29 people.

Whereas 22 people were killed when ISIS detonated a car bomb at a Baghdad ice cream parlor, killing Iraqi families gathering with their children to break the Ramadan fast, and then detonated a second bomb killing elderly Iraqis collecting their pensions.

Whereas a terrorist attack claimed by ISIS killed one person in Melbourne, Australia, and wounded three police officers.

Whereas on June 7, in an attack claimed by ISIS, at least 12 people were killed when gunmen and suicide bombers targeted Iran's parliament and a shrine—

I believe it was a mausoleum or where one of their earlier leaders was entombed, enshrined—

in two coordinated attacks across Tehran.

Whereas these reprehensible attacks have no place in a peaceful world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns ISIS' horrific terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom, Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, Iraq, Australia, and Iran;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families;

(3) expresses solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, Iraq, Australia, and Iran;

(4) recognizes the threat posed by ISIS and recommitments to U.S. leadership in the Global Coalition working to defeat ISIS.

My father served in World War II. He was a chief petty officer. Most of my uncles served in World War II and/or Korea. One of my uncles I never met. My mom's youngest brother served in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed on a ship called the *USS Suwannee*. It was an aircraft carrier.

They were on duty in the Western Pacific in 1944, and their group of ships came under attack by Japanese kamikaze pilots, dive-bombing and crashing their aircraft into several ships, including the *USS Suwannee*, the ship on which my uncle Bob was stationed. He was 19 years old. I think he was on the ship and they were trying to launch aircraft to take on the kamikaze pilots before they could do much damage and several of the aircraft apparently crashed into the aircraft carrier on which my Uncle Bob was doing duty up on the deck of the aircraft carrier.

His body, along with the bodies of a number of people who were on the deck, were never recovered. They were killed, missing in action for an extended period of time, and their bodies were never recovered.

I told folks back in Delaware about my grandmother during one of the Memorial Day observances. I don't know if the Presiding Officer has this in Missouri, but in Delaware, during some of our observances, we have a place of honor where some of our Gold Star families sit. I told the Gold Star families at a bridge ceremony in Wilmington near the Delaware Memorial Bridge—I pointed out where the Gold Star families were sitting, and I said: My grandmother, if she were still alive, would be 110 today, and she would be sitting right over there with all the Gold Star families and mothers.

She never saw her son again after he went off to serve in the war. There was a lot of sorrow in that family for years and years and years. They had pictures for as long as I can remember. There was a picture of my Uncle Bob, age 19, posing, at the time, in his dress blue uniform.

I was a dead ringer for him. My sister and I, after we were born in West Virginia, grew up in Danville, VA. I went off to high school and then became a Navy midshipman and then went off to Southeast Asia. I would go home to visit my relatives in West Virginia, including my grandparents. I would go back to that house. I would go back to the picture and look at him because as I grew older, the resemblance was pretty remarkable. My grandmother, from the time I was a little boy until I grew up, would always call me Bobby. That

was his name, not mine. I was Tommy, but she would call me Bobby. It was kind of eerie. She would never try to correct it. She would just call me Bobby.

Sometimes people would have nicknames for us as kids, and my grandfather always called me Joe. So we would go spend time, a week or two, with them in the summer, and my grandmother called me Bobby and my grandfather called me Joe. I wasn't sure who I was when I would go back to their home in Danville or Roanoke, VA, but I know my grandmother loved her son Bobby, and the folks who took his life were Japanese. They were Japanese.

In the Navy, I flew missions with Japanese forces during the Vietnam war and the Cold War when I was a naval flight officer. Japan is among our best friends today, one of our closest allies, despite the hundreds of thousands of lives which were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor and the war that ensued.

Germany, at the other side of the world, was a bitter enemy during World War II and is among our closest allies and has been for years the bulwark in that part of the world.

I just mention them to say that the folks that might be our adversaries today—Vietnam, where I served, was a great adversary for a number of years, and today, as I said earlier, is one of our closest trading partners, and they are one of our partners. We had, I thought, a wonderful trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership should have been approved by us and never was. It was negotiated in the last administration. I think in history they will say that it was a huge mistake we made not to approve it after negotiating it over a period of several years with 11 other countries, including the Vietnamese.

The Vietnamese are amazingly close. They love Americans. God, they love Americans. They love us more than we love us, and you can feel it. Every time I go over there, I am reminded of that.

Things have a way of changing. Leadership changes, people change, the attitudes of people toward the rest of the world, including us, will change. The results of the Iranian election give me some encouragement. I hope they give the rest of us encouragement. I hope someday some of those young Iranian people who admire this country and love this country will have a chance to come here and visit.

Ironically, today is the last day we have a lot of young people here in this Chamber who are leaving us. We call them pages. Some are sitting down here. I walked up to them earlier today. We have doors—seven doors—and when we are having votes, people and Senators come in and out, and we have two pages stationed at every door. We have pages down here at the foot of the Presiding Officer on either side. What I tried to do was just go around to the pages and shake their hands, say

goodbye, and thank them for their service during what has been really, as the Presiding Officer knows, a challenging time for all of us. I would say I had to have a chance to address these pages as well as the rest of our colleagues here, but I want to say to the pages, thanks a lot for your service, and we hope you have been inspired not by our shortcoming but by the potential you see here for us continuing to send this ship of state into the future.

A lot of people are concerned about the direction our country has taken. I would like to remind them, especially these pages, that 150 years ago we fought a civil war in this country. I grew up in Danville, VA, the last capital of the Confederacy. I think some people were still fighting the Civil War when I got there. I was 9 years old and my sister was 10. So 150 years ago, the Civil War was fought, where hundreds of thousands of people were killed, many more were crippled, wounded, and maimed.

After that, we saw our President assassinated. President Lincoln was assassinated. After that, our President who succeeded him, Andrew Johnson, was impeached, and somehow we got through all of that in the 19th century.

When we finally made it to the 20th century, what happened? World War I—we fought it, won it, and led our allies to victory. Then World War II, we fought it, won it, and led the allies to victory in World War II. The Cold War—won it, led our allies to victory in the Cold War. The Great Depression—we fought our way out of it and led the world to a much stronger economy.

When the 21st century dawned on January 1, 2001, here is where we were as a nation: the strongest economy on Earth, the most productive workforce on Earth, a nation of peace, four balanced budgets in a row. We hadn't balanced our budget since 1968, but the last 4 years of the Clinton administration we were 4 and 0 in terms of a balanced budget.

Since the century began, we were the world's mightiest Nation—the mightiest force for justice—and we were the most admired Nation on the planet. I would just keep in mind the words of Harry Truman: The only thing new in the world is the history we have forgotten and never learned. He was a guy from Missouri, as I recall, like our Presiding Officer.

We are going through a tough time now, and we will get through it. My hope is that our pages, who have provided a great service here in the recent months of their service, will someday come back as interns, maybe someday as Senators and Representatives and chiefs of staff, and will play other roles in guiding our country.

We thank all of you.

My hope is that, as time goes by, the tensions around the world, the hatred, the vitriol, and the murder and the mayhem will have dissipated. Countries just like Japan in World War II,

like Germany in World War II, and like Vietnam in the Vietnam war were our bitter enemies at one time but are now our friends. Maybe we can turn the page with Iran, and they can turn the page with us. They will be better for it, and in the end, we will too.

Your generation, especially, will be better for that.

I thank Senator CORKER and, again, Senator CARDIN and their staffs. I thank our leadership—Senator MCCONNELL and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER—for making sure that this resolution was taken up and written. It worked out, and we will have a chance to vote on it. I just do not want somebody sometime later—this evening or tonight—when asking for unanimous consent to adopt a Senate resolution with a certain number on it, to ask: What was that all about? I want people to know that this is about something that is important, and I am grateful to all who had a hand in it.

Thank you very much.

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

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

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that upon the reporting of the nomination of David P. Pekoske, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the nomination be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that if the 30 days lapse while the Senate is in recess, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs shall have an additional 5 session days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination, after which the nomination, if still in committee, be discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to

the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN359 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (8) beginning Fred Aziz, and ending Nathalie Scharf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2017.

PN360 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (12) beginning David Gossack, and ending Pamela Ward, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I would have cast my vote in favor of Scott Brown to represent the United States as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. New Zealand has been a treaty ally of the United States since the signing of the Australia-New Zealand—United States Treaty in 1951. As a crucial partner and ally, the United States and New Zealand share core values of democracy, human rights, and liberty, and I believe it is imperative for the United States to maintain strong allegiance to our longstanding friends throughout the world.●

REMEMBERING BARBARA MCCALLAHAN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it is with very great sadness today that I honor the life of my longtime staff member and dear friend, Barbara Wise McCallahan. Barb passed away on May 26, 2017.

Barb has worked in my congressional and Senate offices for over 20 years, joining my team on my very first day in Congress in 1997. She was a volunteer on my campaign for the U.S. House and worked many subsequent campaigns. She staffed my Howell and Flint Township offices when I served in the U.S. House. Over the years, she rep-

resented me in Livingston, Washtenaw, Monroe, Wayne, and Oakland Counties as a regional manager in the Senate. For over 20 years, she has been an anchor for me in southeast Michigan.

Barb loved to tell the story of when she first walked into my campaign office to volunteer when I ran for the U.S. House of Representatives. Coming from the hometown of my opponent, she would laugh that my team suspected that she was a spy. This couldn't have been further from the truth. Barb has been fiercely loyal and steadfastly protective of me for over two decades.

I cannot think of anyone who has spent more time over the years driving in a car with me. We have survived blizzards, avoided countless speed traps, identified the fastest drive-through restaurants, and I have never seen anyone who could bypass construction better than Barb. The countless hours we spent together over the years deepened my appreciation for her resolve and determination and cemented a lasting friendship.

Barb was a fighter. She faced many challenges early in her life. She took that fighting spirit and tenacity and fought throughout her career for so many individuals, families, and communities she helped represent. She was committed, tough, proud, and resilient.

I watched Barb struggle with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease in recent months and, along with her family, friends, and coworkers, was deeply affected by her losses earlier this year. While we will all continue to mourn her death, we also celebrate her life, her accomplishments, and her enduring spirit.

Barb is an example of the amazing and talented professionals who commit themselves to congressional service. She has served the State of Michigan and her country with distinction and honor.

No tribute to Barb can be done without including her family. I remember many community events and parades over the years with Barb and her young sons. Although a private person, Barb would light up when talking about her family; she was especially proud of her boys Patrick, Ian, and Brian and her grandson, Shane. On behalf of all of Team Stabenow, you will always be part of our family.

Please join me and countless others as we honor the life of my longtime staff member and dear friend, Barbara McCallahan.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DANIEL Q. GREENWOOD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate a tremendous Marine officer, Col. Daniel Q. Greenwood, for his distinguished service as the commanding officer, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division