

We stand at a historic crossroads. Whatever your ideas about the Iran deal, whether you were for it or against it, we should remember the goals and ideas of the Iranian Government have not changed. They are, as they have been for the last several decades, aimed at the destruction of Israel.

Our Israeli friends need our help. So my message today is to the American people, to their Representatives in both Chambers of Congress, and to all the nations of the world. Now is not the time for partisanship or political games. Now is the time for meaningful and unified action in defense of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

That means a number of things. It starts with all of our getting behind this President and his new approach to Iran. We can have our disagreements on his policies in other areas, but taking an aggressive, holistic posture on Iran should be a bipartisan issue. We must be willing to confront Iran on its nuclear program as well as on its bases in Syria, its support for terrorism, and its numerous violations of human rights and religious freedom. Here in Congress, we should support the administration's position through legislation.

To that end, I invite my colleagues to join me on a number of initiatives I have championed this Congress, including the Continued Support for the Iranian People Act, which holds the Iranian regime responsible for its human rights abuses. I also call on my friends to join me in supporting the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, which exposes the hypocrisy of the Iranian Government in its funding of violent causes rather than in its providing for the welfare of its people.

These actions are just the beginning. We now have an opportunity to hold the Iranian Government accountable. We should start with curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. We would do well to remember that Iran's nuclear program is not an end in itself but just one of many tools the government has at its disposal for causing great harm.

In that light, we need to appeal to our partners in Europe and in the Middle East to not only settle on talking points but on plans of action. If, indeed, we share the priority of protecting democratic values and institutions, we must do so by protecting Israel—a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. We need to both talk the talk and walk the walk.

The world is a different place from what it was in 1948, and so is Israel. Today, Israel is on the cutting edge of every innovation that helps the human condition—from medicine to technology, to irrigation. As a testament to Israel's strength, it has nurtured partnerships across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

The United States must continue doing its part to foster these partnerships. Just as important, we must continue leading the charge in ideas and actions that can help bring about a se-

cure Israel. The task has never been more urgent. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to come together on this—to build a future of peace and prosperity for Israel and its neighbors. Let Israel's founding be a holiday for us and, indeed, for all nations of the world, and let us pray that we can soon celebrate this anniversary in more peaceful times.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, this is National Police Week, a time for recognizing the men and women in law enforcement who serve and protect our Nation. National Police Week is a solemn occasion to honor those who tragically lost their lives while serving in the line of duty. The names of those men and women are carved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

Each year during this week, families and colleagues of the fallen travel to our Nation's Capital for this special commemoration. This year, 360 names will be added, including four officers who served the citizens of Arkansas. We remember Arkansans whose names are newly etched onto the walls of this treasured memorial. I would like to recognize these heroes.

Drew County Sheriff's Deputy Timothy Braden gave his life while serving and protecting the citizens of Arkansas. Deputy Braden, unfortunately, passed away in a car crash after attempting to stop a vehicle whose driver had refused to stop, leading him on a high-speed chase.

Deputy Braden had recently joined the Drew County Sheriff's Office after serving 3 years at the McGehee Police Department. His commitment to enforcing the law, helping those in need, and protecting the community touched the lives of those with whom he served. They will remember him as a kind and hard-working officer who performed his job with a positive attitude.

Lieutenant Patrick Weatherford of the Newport Police Department had responded to a call of a vehicle break-in when he was fatally shot. He had proudly served in law enforcement for 15 years. Throughout his time in uniform, he continued to pursue opportunities to better serve the community. He was a 2016 graduate of the FBI National Academy and was working toward a master's degree in criminal justice.

I would also like to honor the dedication and service of Kevin Mainhart, a Yell County Sheriff's deputy. He was responding to a domestic disturbance call and initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle connected to the situation when

he was fatally shot. Deputy Mainhart had spent more than 20 years serving and protecting Arkansas communities in law enforcement and was a veteran of the Air Force.

The selfless service of Keith Bradford, Sr., Turrell police chief, is also worthy of recognition. The chief is one of 231 members of the law enforcement community who died in a previous year, but his sacrifice will be documented on the memorial this year.

Chief Bradford helped launch the law enforcement agency in 2012. In 2014, he responded to a call to assist officers from another local jurisdiction with a high-speed chase. He checked the safety of the officers, but according to a police report, Chief Bradford was left shaken. Hours later, he suffered a fatal heart attack. Chief Bradford had dedicated more than 20 years of his life to law enforcement.

Each of these officers demonstrated courage and determination in the face of danger. These heroes, like all members of the law enforcement community, commit their lives to protecting the public. In their profession, there is no such thing as an off-duty officer. Answering a call for help is ingrained in who they are.

As a member of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, I am committed to providing our first responders with tools, resources, and training to help them prepare for unpredictable circumstances. These men and women are brave and selfless heroes who risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe.

This Congress, I was proud to cosponsor the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act to give their home States the opportunity to provide a fitting tribute for their service, should they make the ultimate sacrifice. This bill would allow Governors to order the American flag to fly at halfstaff in recognition of first responders who are killed in the line of duty. Those who are called to serve and protect have earned this honor.

I am pleased that it was included as a provision in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 that was signed into law earlier this year. We can all agree that these courageous first responders deserve this powerful acknowledgement in recognition of their sacrifice.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I thank law enforcement officers at the local, State, and Federal levels for all they do to keep us safe. We appreciate your dedication and the heroism you display each and every day. Thank you for doing whatever it takes to protect and serve your families, neighbors, and fellow citizens.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, a little later this afternoon, we are going to have votes on the confirmation of two judges to serve on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. The vote will be on the confirmation of Amy St. Eve and Michael Scudder to fill these Illinois seats. They are two outstanding nominees, and I am proud to support both of them.

NOMINATION OF AMY ST. EVE

Amy St. Eve is a native of Belleville, IL. She was valedictorian of her class at Belleville West High School. She received degrees from Cornell University and Cornell Law School, where she served on the Law Review.

After law school, she worked for stints in private practice, as an in-house counsel, at the Office of Independent Counsel, and as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

In 2002, she was nominated for the Federal district court in Chicago with my support and the support of Republican Illinois Senator Peter Fitzgerald. She was confirmed by a voice vote.

During her 16 years on the Federal bench, Amy St. Eve has handled thousands of cases and has personally presided over 120 trials. Judge St. Eve has an outstanding reputation as a judge. She shows up early. She works hard. She knows the law. She runs her courtroom efficiently. She is respected by the litigants and her fellow judges as one of the best trial judges in Illinois, if not in the Nation. For years, I have heard praise for her from across the political spectrum.

Whenever someone comes before me who has practiced in the Federal courts of Chicago, I make it a practice to ask them: Who do you think are the best judges on the Federal bench? Without exception, I can tell you that Amy St. Eve's name is always mentioned—always. That is no exaggeration.

It is a little bittersweet to see her leave the district court bench, but she has the qualifications and judgment to step up and be an outstanding member of the Seventh Circuit. I am honored to support her nomination.

I congratulate her and her family—her husband, Howard, and her children, Lauren, Emily, and Brett—on this important day in the Senate.

Michael Scudder was born next door to Illinois, in Indiana. He received his undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's College. After working for several years as an accountant, he attended Northwestern Law School, where he earned his J.D. After law school, he clerked for Judge Paul Niemeyer of the Fourth Circuit and then for Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. Mr. Scudder then worked for several years in private practice and as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York. In 2006, he began working as a counselor in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and in 2007, he moved to the White House, where he

became general counsel of the National Security Council. In 2009, he returned to private practice at the law firm Skadden, Arps, where he has worked until this day.

Mr. Scudder has made a name for himself in the Chicago legal community for his commitment to pro bono work and for his efforts to encourage other lawyers to make public service and pro bono a significant part of their legal career. He has won several awards for his pro bono efforts, including from Northwestern Law School and from the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Scudder is well respected across the political spectrum, and he has the experience, the integrity, and the judgment to be an outstanding Federal judge. I congratulate him, his wife, Sarah, and their children, Erin, Michael, Margaret, and Nicholas, on this occasion.

It is an honor to speak on behalf of these two Illinois nominees who have been rated unanimously well qualified by the American Bar Association.

Let me comment for a moment on the process that led us to this moment. If anyone follows the judicial nominations before the Senate, they may find it unusual that Democratic Senators like myself and, I might add, Senator DUCKWORTH, who joins me in praising these two nominees, are standing here before the Senate, before a vote, and saying that we worked with the Trump White House and the blue-slip process—and did it successfully—to come up with two outstanding nominees. I want to comment briefly on how we did it.

Both nominees received blue slips—approval slips—from the individual Senators in their State, from both Senator DUCKWORTH and me. The White House engaged in good-faith negotiations over these vacancies. They respected the tradition that we had established in Illinois of having an expert screening committee review all candidates. The process resulted in the selection of these two excellent nominees, whom all sides agreed upon. We made it clear to the White House—both Senator DUCKWORTH and I—that we were not going to drag out this process; we would have a timely review of each nominee, our committee would give its recommendation, and we would be back in touch with the White House in a timely fashion. That is how the process has worked in the past, and that is how it should work with this President when it comes to these two circuit court nominees.

When blue slips and home-State judicial screening commissions are respected, we end up with consensus, highly qualified nominees. Yet there are many in Republican circles here in Washington who have decided that they want to jettison blue slips, ignore that tradition, and basically ignore home-State screening commissions. That is the wrong step as far as Senator DUCKWORTH and I are concerned. We showed good faith—and so did the

White House—in coming up with these two fine nominees.

Recently, Senator BALDWIN of Wisconsin and her bipartisan screening commission were dealt out of the process that led to the confirmation vote last week of Seventh Circuit Wisconsin nominee Michael Brennan. And now Republicans are pushing forward with an Oregon Ninth Circuit nominee, Ryan Bounds, over the objections of both Oregon Senators after Mr. Bounds failed to disclose controversial writings to the screening committee in Oregon.

I hope my Republican colleagues in the Senate—who are now in the majority, with a President of their own party, and are now feeling their oats and deciding they want to push aside the traditions of the Senate—will stop and reflect for a moment. Isn't it better that we show mutual respect for one another when it comes to the blue-slip process?

There have been times in the past when Senators from various States did not give approval for nominees, and sometimes those vacancies went on for years. Nevertheless, Democrats in the same position respected the blue-slip process. I think the Republicans should do the same.

As Senators, we have a fundamental responsibility to the people we represent when it comes to the selection of Federal judges. Long after many of us are gone, these judges will still be serving in the Federal judiciary. We must exercise a vigorous advice-and-consent role for these members of the Federal judiciary who will sit in courtrooms in our states.

It should concern all of us if any Senator is dealt out of the judicial selection process in their State. None of us want that to happen to us as individuals or to the constituents we represent.

By confirming Michael Brennan and pushing the nomination of Ryan Bounds, some in this Chamber are sending a clear signal that home-State Senators and, more importantly, the people they represent aren't going to matter anymore in the judicial selection process. That is a terrible path for the Senate to pursue.

We are at a critical moment in the Senate history when it comes to judicial nominations. Senate traditions like blue slips and home-State screening commissions have worked well for decades to build consensus and produce high-quality nominees, no matter which party is in power. Abandoning these traditions for the heady moment we might have politically will diminish the advice-and-consent role of the Senate and provide more power to the executive branch over our own U.S. Senate.

I hope there are at least a few Republicans on the Senate side who will stop their party from going down this road of abandoning blue slips and home-State screening commissions. We