

should have mutual respect for one another professionally, even when we disagree politically. All it would take is for a handful of Republican Senators to stand up and say: We are going to defend these traditions. We believe the traditions are worth defending.

In closing, I will say that Amy St. Eve and Michael Scudder are outstanding nominees who were selected through a process of good-faith negotiations and timely decisions, and one that respected the Senate's traditions and home-State interests. If that process becomes an exception rather than the norm, all of our home States, the quality of our Federal judiciary, and the institution of the U.S. Senate will suffer.

Let me close by saying that these two nominees are two of the best. I knew one of them from her 16 years of service on the bench and the other from recommendations given to us by many who practiced with him over the years. I have confidence that they will do a fine job on this circuit court bench. I may not agree with all their decisions, but I will respect them as a man and a woman who have come to this professional responsibility with an understanding of their constitutional responsibilities to the United States, to the State of Illinois, and to this circuit.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

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. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. PORTMAN. Madam President, this afternoon, I wish to talk about the brave men and women in law enforcement who are protecting us every single day. I am from Ohio. We are proud of our Ohio law enforcement. We are proud of the leadership that many Ohio law enforcement have had at a national level over the years. In fact, right now, the vice president of the Fraternal Order of Police is an officer from Marion, OH.

Unfortunately, in Ohio we have had some tragic incidences over the past several years of law enforcement officials doing their job and coming into a dangerous situation—injuries, shootings, and even the loss of the lives of several officers earlier this year.

This week is called Police Week. It is the week in which we take a moment to stop and remember those officers and talk about them.

Today, I join my colleagues here in the Senate in cosponsoring legislation that is a resolution that commemorates this week as Police Week. Although every single day we should be grateful to those police officers who are out there in the Buckeye State—my home State—and others, this week

is the time to really focus on them, to focus on the sacrifices and reflect on their bravery, what they do every day in committing themselves to protecting our communities, often risking their own safety to protect others. Sometimes we talk about this as the thin blue line, which is that thin blue line between chaos and order. They are those police officers on that thin blue line—the men and women in blue—who are out there, protecting us from that chaos.

Police officers are driven by a dedication to justice and a sense of duty to protect those in need. The police officers whom I know have big hearts. They are compassionate. I sometimes tell them they are as much social workers as police officers because of the work they do. This is particularly true with the opioid crisis and the number of police officers who are engaged in that issue—in trying to get people into treatment, in trying to deal with the problem that, in my State, is out of control.

The No. 1 cause of crime in our communities is the opioid crisis. Typically, it is somebody who is committing a crime—whether it is a burglary or fraud or shoplifting—to pay for a drug habit. Police officers are often in a position in which they need to step in and provide law enforcement but also to aid in getting people the help they need.

Let me give a specific example of what I mean when I say that police officers put themselves on the line for us constantly. Over the weekend, I received a call—or an email—on Saturday about a police officer in Ohio who was injured in the line of duty. He is a Franklin County deputy. I am not going to use his name tonight because, for privacy purposes, his name is not out there, but he is a good example of what happens virtually every day in communities around the country.

He was pulling somebody over for a traffic citation, for a traffic violation. He was running the tag, and he noticed that the person was wanted for violating a protection order after a domestic assault charge. The person didn't pull over. In fact, the car led the officer on a very dangerous police chase through the streets of Franklin County, which is near Columbus, OH. Finally, the chase ended when the suspect's car crashed. Luckily, he didn't kill anybody else when he crashed that car. Then a shoot-out ensued, and in that shoot-out, the police officer was injured. He did return fire, and when he returned fire, the suspect was shot and killed. This deputy has been treated in a hospital for his injuries. He is now listed in stable condition, thank God.

This just happened last weekend. Again, it is an example of what the men and women in blue confront every single day. We are grateful for the bravery and quick action of that Franklin County deputy. I am also encouraged about what we are hearing about the deputy's condition as of this afternoon. We send him our prayers.

This was just one example. Sadly, in many cases around the country, unfortunately, these officers are making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

In Akron, OH, just last week, the FOP Lodge No. 7 held its annual memorial service for 26 Akron police officers who have given their lives. There are a few hundred people there, as I understand it, who provide a commemoration of this event every year. I appreciate that they do that. There will be similar memorials and moments of remembrance across the country this week. Of course, there is a big one here in Washington, DC. Sadly, in my home State of Ohio, we have no shortage of police officers whose bravery deserves more than we can ever do to repay it.

Earlier this year, there were two heroic Ohioans who lost their lives in the line of duty. On Saturday, February 10, Westerville, OH, police officers Anthony "Tony" Morelli and Eric Joering were both fatally shot. They were responding to a 911 call—again, for domestic assault. They arrived and were immediately shot at. These were two amazing officers. Tony Morelli was a 29-year veteran at the Westerville Police Department. Eric Joering was a 16-year veteran. He was also a K-9 officer who partnered with his dog, Sam.

Both of these men were beloved and respected by members of the Westerville community. I had the opportunity to meet with some of their fellow officers and colleagues and to talk with them about these men and what they were like. What kept coming back was their incredible sense of public service and great senses of humor. They knew what they were doing was dangerous; yet they felt strongly about doing it and being dedicated to it.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the officers' wives and kids and families to be able to express our thanks from all of us for the service that their husbands and fathers had given. On behalf of this body, I presented both families with flags that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of their courage and their sacrifice while protecting the people of Ohio.

These families, like other police families I have gotten to know over the years, are just amazing. Their strength is inspiring. In their grief—and it is profound grief—they also told me how proud they were of the service these men performed for all of us and said that these two officers wouldn't have had it any other way. They wanted to be police officers.

The dangers law enforcement officers face have increased in the past few years with the deepening of the opioid crisis and specifically with the growing influx of synthetic opioids, like fentanyl. Let me give one quick example of this.

East Liverpool has a police officer named Chris Green. Last year, Officer Green pulled a car over. There were two people in the car. He pulled up and noticed some white, powdery substance. Fortunately for him, he had

put on gloves and a mask. He realized that this substance was fentanyl, which, by the way, is 50 times more powerful than heroin. He booked them and took them down to the station. While he was down at the station, he looked at his shirt and he saw a couple of flecks of something, a few white flecks on his shirt. So, as anybody might do, he reached over with his hand, like this, and just brushed these flecks off his shirt. Unfortunately, the flecks were fentanyl. Three flecks touched his skin. He immediately overdosed. He was unconscious on the floor. He was given Narcan not once, not twice, but four times. He was taken to the hospital and finally woke up at the hospital. He is a big guy, by the way, and is in good shape. That shows how powerful and deadly these drugs are.

That is a danger our police officers are running into every day. His police chief said he would probably have not made it if they had not been there, because he had overdosed right there in the police station, but they had gotten him to the emergency room. Think if he had gone home after not having brushed off those flecks and had hugged his kids. That is what our police officers go through every single day.

The incredibly dangerous nature of these drugs threatens not only police officers, of course, but other first responders who come into contact with these deadly substances. It also threatens the K-9 sniffing dogs, the drug sniffing dogs, that come into contact with it. That is one reason we have to pass the STOP Act, by the way, and do other things that law enforcement strongly supports to stop some of this poison from coming into our communities.

Law enforcement officers share an unbreakable bond. In response to the tragic deaths of Officers Morelli and Joering, the police community and the people of Central Ohio—frankly, across the Nation—have stepped up in big ways to support and assist these two families with a beautiful parade in downtown Columbus and a lot of support for the kids. That is exactly the way it should be.

We hold these families up in prayer, like those 26 officers remembered in Akron, like the Morellis and the Joernings. We take a moment this week to reflect on the sacrifices police officers and their families make on a daily basis for all of us.

I am honored to be here on the floor this evening to thank these police officers and their families. I look forward to seeing them here in Washington this week and in letting them know that, in this Chamber, in this Congress, and in this country, we appreciate what they do, that we are grateful for their service, and that we understand their sacrifices.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

WELL WISHES FOR HARRY REID AND FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, I recently heard that my dear friend Harry Reid has just gotten out of an operation to treat pancreatic cancer. I have spoken to his family, and it seems that everything went very well with the operation. The doctors say pancreatic cancer is not a great thing, but given that the operation couldn't have gone much better, we are all praying for Harry's speedy recovery. Harry is a fighter literally and figuratively. I know he is going to approach his recovery with the same energy and tenacity and resolve that defined his public life. We all send our prayers to him. We also wish a speedy recovery to the First Lady, who underwent a medical procedure today as well.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Madam President, an area in which the President and I have mostly agreed is on trade with China. I have given him a pat on the back for his stance so far. I have praised the administration vocally and forcefully for its efforts in addressing China's intellectual property theft and extortion—its unwillingness to let our best products be sold in their country, in their huge market, unless we give them our family jewels, that of how we do things, of how we invent things.

The President was right, and so many of us breathed a sigh of relief when he started an investigation into China's theft of our intellectual property. The administration was right to threaten tariffs and investment restrictions to get China to the negotiating table. Its reaction to what happened with the recent telecom company ZTE shows that when you are tough with China, it really reacts.

China is rapacious about trade, particularly about intellectual property. To gain access to China's markets, American companies are forced by China's Government into deals in which they must turn over their most valuable job-creating intellectual property to Chinese competitors. China's state-backed companies try to steal intellectual property from American companies outright. It is wrong and is anathema to the American way.

Four-star Gen. Keith Alexander, Retired, has said that China's theft of intellectual property has been the "greatest transfer of wealth in history." That just eats at me. It eats at me. That is American jobs; that is American wealth, American innovation, of which we are all so proud, being stolen—there is no other word—by China, and it hurts us.

There is one example that hits home to me. I was in Albany this morning. One of our biggest employers is GE, which makes steam turbines. GE employs thousands of people in good-paying jobs. It is one of the big manufacturing sites left in Schenectady. A few years back, it signed one of these 5149s. China wouldn't let it sell the turbines in China, and it is a huge market. So it

signed one of these things to make them in China—a 5149 with a Chinese company that clearly the government's tentacles are in.

It is great for GE's CEO. I liked him, and he was my friend, but I so objected to what he did here. GE makes good profits on those sales because it gets an exclusive contract on the right to sell for a few years, but then China will have stolen the amazing GE technology that allows its turbines to be the best in the world, to spin fast without overheating, and those jobs are gone. That story can be repeated over and over and over again.

So I thought, good for President Trump for finally getting serious about this calamity. I noted that my views on China and how we deal with it economically are closer to President Trump's than to President Bush's or President Obama's, both of whom I thought were far too soft. He acknowledged that in a little note he sent to me because he saw it in one of the newspapers he reads. Yet, now, disappointingly—maybe not surprisingly—President Trump is backing off. Over the weekend, we saw two incredible examples of the President doing a 180 on China.

First, Axios reported that the President is on the verge of a deal that would have China accelerate its purchases of U.S. goods, in the name of reducing our trade deficit with China, in exchange for our dropping the 301 tariffs that have been proposed to stop China from stealing our intellectual property specifically.

Secondly and amazingly enough, when he finally took some strong action against China—his Commerce Department—the President backed off. He tweeted that he and President Xi are working together to give the massive Chinese phone company ZTE a way to get back into business fast because there had been "too many jobs in China lost." What about jobs in America, Mr. President? What about the millions of jobs that are lost because of what China has done?

The President was referring to the fact that ZTE had accepted a fine for selling its products in violation of U.S. sanctions against Iran and North Korea and could be further restricted by a pending FCC proposal to ban U.S. telecom companies that receive Federal funds from purchasing mobile equipment or services from companies like ZTE. Why? Because ZTE poses a national security threat to U.S. communication networks. This President, who prides himself on keeping us secure, is going to let ZTE continue to do this despite what the experts say?

Why on Earth would President Trump promise to help a Chinese telecom company that has flouted U.S. sanctions and whose trade practices are a risk to our national security? The thing that will move China most is taking tough action against actors like ZTE, but even before it is implemented the President backs off. Why on Earth