

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the Inhofe amendment No. 2282, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Marco Rubio, James M. Inhofe, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, John Thune.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the bill, H.R. 5515.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Marco Rubio, James M. Inhofe, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, John Thune.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

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 the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 835.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher

Krebs, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, Department of Homeland Security.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for 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.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to solemnly remember the 49 individuals who died and the 53 who were wounded at Pulse Orlando, an LGBT nightclub in Orlando, FL, 2 years ago.

I will never forget waking up in the early hours that Sunday, to hear that a 29-year-old gunman, armed with a Sig Sauer MCX assault rifle, walked into a nightclub and massacred 49 individuals in one of the deadliest mass shootings ever witnessed in our country.

To this day, so many lives impacted from the attack are still on the long road to recovery and healing. To all of the families and loved ones of those who were lost and injured during the attack, please continue to accept my deepest condolences.

Please also know I will not rest until our country is safe from gun violence. We cannot simply sit back and do nothing while mass shootings continue to devastate our communities, our places of worship, our music venues, our schools, and our workplaces.

In the days that followed the Pulse nightclub attack, I, along with Senator NELSON and a number of my colleagues, resurrected calls for legislation to allow the FBI to deny gun transfers to known or suspected terrorists who pose a public safety risk.

The legislation was a direct response to Pulse. In fact, the gunman in Orlando was ISIL-inspired and fueled by

hateful extremism and had previously been placed on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist after earlier investigative warnings to the FBI were made about him.

And, yet, the man was allowed to walk into a gun store, pass a background check without any notification to the FBI, and walk out with a Sig Sauer MCX, a modern assault rifle with devastating killing capability.

Alarming statistics over a 10-year period demonstrate that, from February 2004 through December 2014, there were 2,233 cases in which a known or suspected terrorist identified in Federal terrorist watchlist records attempted to buy or receive a gun or explosives.

In 91 percent of these cases—a total of 2,043 different times—the known or suspected terrorist was cleared to buy or receive the firearm or explosives. In 2013 and 2014 alone, FBI data specifically showed that individuals on terrorist watchlists were involved in firearm-related background checks 485 times, and 455 of those—about 94 percent—were allowed to proceed.

It appeared there was widespread agreement to finally take action and ensure that no one who is a known or suspected terrorist, with ISIL affiliations, would be allowed to walk into a gun store and pass a Federal background check to obtain a gun. However, because of the gun lobby's strident opposition, and Republican submission to that opposition, the legislation withered and failed.

Unfortunately, the problem of mass shootings has continued to devastate this Nation. In October 2017 in Las Vegas, a single gunman with multiple assault rifles outfitted with bump stocks killed 58 people gathered to listen to a concert from his hotel room window. Numerous eyewitness accounts described the scene as a "warzone."

In Sutherland Springs, TX, in November 2017, a gunman walked into a church sanctuary on a Sunday, and killed 26 people, ranging from the elderly to young children.

Earlier this year, a 19-year-old gunman who legally purchased an AR-15 style rifle just after his 18th birthday used it to kill 14 of his former high school classmates and three educators at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

These shootings are heartbreaking. Time and again, I have stood here to ask my colleagues to show courage, to stand up to the gun lobby, and do something. These calls are only growing louder. Young people are now also taking to the streets like never before and demanding action.

They are calling for weapons of war to be taken off of our streets, and they are calling for universal background checks. They are fighting for changes to our laws because they don't want to live in a country where although we are 4.4 percent of the world's population, we possess over 44 percent of the world's firearms.

They don't want to live in a country where it is more politically expedient to bar doorways at schools, rather than ban assault weapons. They are calling for lawmakers to stand up and do what is right: to close loopholes in our gun laws and decisively take steps so they feel safe in their schools, their churches, and their communities.

Their sentiment is captured powerfully in an article I would like to share, that was written by Glennon Doyle Melton, an author and mother of three children.

"Two weeks ago, my second and fourth grade daughters came home from school and told me that they'd had a code red drill... In case someone tries to kill us. We had to all hide in the bathroom together and be really quiet. It was really scary but the teacher said if there was a real man with a gun trying to find us, she'd cover us up and protect us from him. Tommy started crying. I tried to be brave."

She continued: "My three-year-old nephew had the same drill at his preschool in Virginia. Three-year-old American babies and teachers—hiding in bathrooms, holding hands, preparing for death. We are saying to teachers: arm yourselves and fight men with assault weapons because we are too cowardly to fight the gun lobby."

"We are saying to a terrified generation of American children—We will not do what it takes to protect you. We will not even try. So just be very quiet, hide and wait. Hold your breath. Shhh."

By failing to act, year after year, these children all across our country are being forced to live in fear and have these kinds of "trainings."

We are asking our teachers to not focus on teaching math and English, but to wield weapons and fight off those armed to the teeth with military-style weapons. That can't be the solution.

We can no longer remain silent. We can no longer do nothing. We must stand up and fight. Our children and the generations to come demand it. I hope we will finally take action and pass these commonsense bills.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEEDS OF PEACE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1993, American journalist and author John Wallach hosted a dinner with leaders from Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority. As he toasted his guests, he urged each country to send 15 youngsters to a new summer camp he had established in Otisfield, ME. That year, 46 teens, ages 13 to 18, and including three Americans, comprised the first class of the Seeds of Peace Camp.

Twenty-five years later, Seeds of Peace now has 6,698 alumni throughout the Middle East, South Asia, Europe, and the United States. They came to Maine from 27 countries, many from places of conflict, for 3 weeks of camp-

ing and social activities to promote understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, dialogue, coexistence, and peace. They returned home uniquely positioned to lead change and with the courage to dispel the fear, mistrust, and prejudice that fuel conflict.

It is a pleasure to congratulate this remarkable organization on its landmark 25th anniversary. Seeds of Peace is able to bridge borders and foster peace in the midst of longstanding global conflicts. Many of those early campers are now holding decision-making positions in their home countries, and I believe that the "seeds of peace" that were planted during their time in Maine will blossom into lasting, visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence.

Building on the success of the international program, Seeds of Peace launched the Maine Seeds leadership program in 2000 in response to the changing demographics in our State resulting from a growing refugee population. These Maine Seeds organize year-round community and school activities that bridge divisions and create positive change.

Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of youth who are too often exposed to hatred by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities, such as sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and exploring creativity through the arts and computers. These interactions and the lasting friendships formed are creating new generations of leaders who will choose dialogue and understanding over violence and hatred.

In addition to the summer camp in Maine, Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities, through regional programming and the innovative use of technology, to enable former participants to build on the relationships forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp may continue in the participants' home countries, where they are most needed.

Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders. Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates and recognizes the importance of Seeds of Peace in promoting the foreign policy goals of the United States.

The Seeds of Peace mission—to inspire and cultivate new generations of leaders to accelerate the social, economic, and political changes essential for peace—is more essential than ever before. From a small summer camp in Maine a quarter of a century ago to a global movement today, Seeds of Peace has carried out that vital mission and brought new hope to the world.

YEAR OF THE HAWAIIAN

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, last weekend, we gathered in the Capitol Visitor Center to celebrate the 283rd birthday of King Kamehameha I, who, to the best of our knowledge, was born in Kohala, HI, in 1735.

Since 1871, generations of Hawaiians have formally celebrated King Kamehameha's birthday through annual celebrations—including floral parades and lei-draping ceremonies. Kamehameha Day is celebrated across the State and is an acknowledged State holiday.

These events recognize the many accomplishments of Hawaii's first King and his importance in unifying the Hawaiian Islands.

This year was no different, as this past weekend tens of thousands of individuals gathered in Washington, DC, and Hawaii to remember his legacy and celebrate his accomplishments.

However, this year's ceremonies came at another important time of reflection.

On February 17, 2018, Gov. David Ige proclaimed 2018 to be the "Year of the Hawaiian, Ke Au Hawaii" in Hawaii. The Governor's proclamation came after the Hawaii State Legislature made a similar proclamation for the year.

So as we gathered to remember King Kamehameha, we also reflected more broadly on the achievements and contributions of Hawaii's indigenous, Native Hawaiian community in the areas of politics and government, education and the arts, music, writing and literature, sports, business, medicine, law, and social work.

We reflected on the restoration and revitalization of Native Hawaiian language and traditions and the importance of promoting Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

We remembered great statesmen like Daniel Kahikina Akaka, U.S. Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, who served in Congress over the course of five decades and recently passed away.

We remembered philanthropists like Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

It has been 30 years since the last Year of the Hawaiian was celebrated in 1988, and important advancements by and for the Native Hawaiian community have been made since that time.

We have seen the creation and expansion of Native Hawaiian immersion schools and Hawaiian-focused charter schools. We have seen the establishment of a College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii. We have seen the continued revitalization of Native Hawaiian navigation practices, including through the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage, which visited more than 150 ports and 23 countries and territories.

We have seen more than 14,000 Native Hawaiians serve in the U.S. military. We have seen the return of land and repatriation of Native Hawaiian cultural artifacts. We have seen the protection of Native Hawaiian burial sites. We have seen the expansion of Native Hawaiian healthcare services. We have seen the expansion of opportunities for Native Hawaiian businesses.

We have also seen the Federal Government reiterate its special political and legal relationship with the Hawaiian people based on their unique status