

That is what we have to change. Until Wall Street, corporate boardrooms, and Members of the Senate respect a hard day's work, we will continue to see the consequences. The gap between Wall Street and Main Street will keep growing, it will be harder and harder for workers to afford housing and other expenses. Our middle class will continue to shrink, as it has, and our economic growth will continue to lag behind. We can work together to fix that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. For the information of our colleagues, the Senate will proceed to the bill tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., and the amendment process will begin.

After Senator STABENOW and I offer the bipartisan substitute, the first amendment offered on this side will be the Thune amendment on the Conservation Reserve Program.

There will be no further rollcall votes tonight.

I yield to my distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the committee, Senator STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I am pleased that we are moving forward and looking forward to the first amendment we will be voting on, Senator THUNE's amendment, of which I am very supportive. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues as we move through the bill. Hopefully, we are on the road to getting this done this week.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. 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.

ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I wish to discuss H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019.

I thank Senate leadership and the Appropriations Committee for their work on this legislation.

The Appropriations Committee's effort this year to return the Senate to regular order on annual spending bills is commendable, and the leadership of the committee honors a bipartisan commitment to keep the most controversial policy language out of these pieces of legislation.

While we can agree that the legislation is indeed absent of unrelated policy riders, that does not mean all of the appropriations it contains and the resulting policy implications of those appropriations are good.

One such misguided priority within this bill is funding an unnecessary, destabilizing, and thoroughly underexplained expansion of America's nuclear arsenal.

In particular, the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Act contains \$65 million in funding to develop a new so-called low-yield nuclear weapon warhead: the W76-2. This is a new nuclear weapon that we simply just do not need. For this reason, I opposed this bill.

I made clear during Senate consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act that developing the W76-2 low-yield nuclear warhead creates a new nuclear weapon that is unnecessary to maintain America's nuclear deterrent.

This need for a new low-yield nuclear weapon first came to light just 5 months ago in the Trump administration's Nuclear Posture Review.

I have seen no documents, reports, or studies justifying the W76-2 or supporting its immediate development, and serious questions remain unanswered.

Why are the hundreds of low-yield nuclear weapons that we already have, like the B61 bomb and air-launched cruise missile, not adequate?

Where will these new W76-2 nuclear weapons be deployed?

On how many of our boomer submarines will we be placing these weapons and on what schedule?

What targets will we no longer hold at risk with strategic nuclear weapons to accommodate these new low-yield weapons?

Since this W76-2 low-yield nuclear weapon will be launched using the same rockets as our strategic thermonuclear weapons and off of the exact same submarines, how can anyone distinguish whether it is one or the other?

Somehow, answers to these questions have not been written down anywhere. Instead, we are simply told "we need the low yield nuclear weapon to deter the Russians and prevent an escalate to de-escalate scenario."

The United States already has plans to spend hundreds of billions of dollars to upgrade our existing nuclear weapons systems as part of the existing nuclear modernization program, systems that are in excess of what we need to maintain our nuclear deterrence.

So it just makes no sense to spend money to develop new nuclear weapons.

In doing so, we are making America and the world less safe, not more. We are throwing away decades of American leadership trying to move the world away from nuclear weapons and the existential threat they pose to all of us.

That is why I filed an amendment to redirect funds that the Trump administration would use to develop this wasteful and unnecessary low-yield nuclear weapon towards preparing for nonproliferation activities that will be essential to helping denuclearize North Korea whether now or at some point in the future.

I regret that my amendment was not considered during the floor debate on this bill, but I still believe that Congress needs to seriously consider the consequences of authorizing and appropriating funds for this new weapon.

I am more worried than ever that this crucial debate has not and is not receiving the attention that it deserves. I hope, moving forward, we can change that and that the Senate will appropriately consider the magnitude of the decisions we are making here today.

A nuclear weapon is a nuclear weapon. They are fundamentally different than anything else in the world, and they must be treated as such.

In the absence of a full debate on the floor of this Chamber that allows the American people to understand what is truly at stake with this new weapon, I could not support this legislation.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD BRADY

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise on behalf of the Delaware delegation to honor the exemplary service of Bernard Brady, secretary of the senate for the State of Delaware.

A native of Wilmington and a graduate of Trinity College, University of Dublin, Bernard began his career with the Delaware Senate in January of 1979. After nearly 40 years of public service, he has made the difficult decision to retire. Bernard serves as the chief administrative officer of the Senate, which is a position elected by the members. For four decades, Bernard has been the cornerstone of the Delaware Senate, involved in matters relating to budget, legislation, and overall operations. His office maintains records of official Senate transactions, handles the introduction and flow of legislation, sends and receives legislative messages and executive communications, compiles and posts agendas, records committee reports, rollcalls, and the legislative journal. This is no small task for one person. Many nights while serving as Delaware's Governor, I

recall leaving legislative hall and noticing that Bernard's car was still parked in its regular spot and his office light would still be on. It was not unusual for him to work well into the night to ensure that all of that day's loose ends had been tied up and that the stage was set for a smooth transition to the next legislative day.

During my 8 years as Governor, my staff and I were fortunate to work with Bernard on many occasions, often seeking out his guidance and wisdom regarding legislative issues or gubernatorial appointments. Bernard readily made himself available to our team, generously offering us the benefit of his historical knowledge.

Bernard is so ingrained in the daily workings of the Senate that most people in legislative hall cannot imagine the senate chamber without him. Bernard is invaluable for his insight and expertise on the Delaware Legislature, but talk to anyone, and they will tell you that Bernard is beloved because he has the patience of a saint and the heart of a true servant, respected by Democrats and Republicans alike.

Today, we join Bernard's siblings, Geraldine, Mary Lou, Chip, Gerald, and Philip, along with his many colleagues and friends, in honoring Bernard for his dedication to the Delaware State Senate and the people of Delaware. On behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS and Congresswoman LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, I wholeheartedly thank Bernard for his four decades of service to Delaware. His model leadership and dedication to the order and rules in the senate chamber are second to none. We offer our sincere congratulations on a job well done and wish him many happy, healthy, and successful years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BARKER

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize John Barker, an exemplary citizen in my hometown of Yuma, CO. As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Post 3378, Mr. Barker has selflessly volunteered his time and energy toward providing invaluable services to veterans and their families. As a result, he has been honored by the Colorado VFW with the Salute to Service Award.

Mr. Barker goes above and beyond to help veterans in our community. This includes regular visits to veterans admitted to hospitals and nursing homes and ensuring that announcements of events hosted by Post 3378 are widely circulated in local media. Whether it is working to expand the local Veteran's Memorial Park or tracking down stories from veterans and their families to be published, he ensures that these veterans receive the recognition they deserve.

On a more solemn note, Mr. Barker visits veterans who have entered hospice care and presents them with a plaque commemorating their service; in their last moments, these veterans know how grateful our community is

to them. Furthermore, Mr. Barker attends their funerals and performs military honors as a member of Post 3378's color guard.

Indeed, Mr. Barker's volunteerism is not limited to veterans. He has worked with local Boy Scouts, encouraging them to finish their Eagle Scout projects, volunteered as Santa Claus at a local event, and worked with the Colorado Department of Fish and Wildlife to make sure there were fish to catch for the kids at Yuma's "Huck Finn" Day.

Mr. Barker's dedication to his community and his VFW post is unparalleled. His VFW commander, Adam Beauprez, had no hesitation nominating him for the Salute to Service Award and it is little wonder that the Colorado VFW followed suit by honoring him with this recognition.

Mr. Barker, thank you for your service. Thank you for your friendship and your family's friendship. You make Colorado proud.●

REMEMBERING JONATHON DRAKE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today, I would like to honor the life of Jonathon Drake of New Durham, NH, who tragically lost his life in a car accident in May. A social worker at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, Jonathon worked to help at-risk youth succeed and was beloved by his family, his colleagues, and his community. A childhood cancer survivor, he dedicated his life to helping young people and was recognized for his exceptional work with the first annual Rockstar Award from YOUTH M.O.V.E. New Hampshire. Jonathon dreamt of being a school principal one day, and was working toward completing his certification at the time of his death.

In addition to his work, Jonathon was dedicated to his wife, their two young sons, and to the many people he embraced as family. At a celebration of Jonathon's life, hundreds of community members gathered to share memories of their friend who had been taken from them far too soon.

One of my favorite things about New Hampshire is our all-hands-on-deck spirit, where people roll up their sleeves and work together to strengthen our communities. Both in his work to improve the lives of at-risk youth and his love for those around him, Jonathon Drake perfectly exemplified this New Hampshire spirit, and we can honor his memory by carrying on his work and rededicating ourselves to the work of improving our communities and being a friend. May he rest in peace.●

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN DILLS

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Nathan Dills, the first Oklahoman to be sworn in as president of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National As-

sociation, SMACNA. With over 3,000 company members, SMACNA is a leader in promoting quality and excellence in the sheet metal and air conditioning industry.

Nathan decided to go into the family sheet metal business in 2006. The passion for sheet metal operations goes back three generations in Nathan's family. His grandfather, O.C. Patten, was a sheet metal worker, and his father started the family's sheet metal business in 1977. Nathan now owns and operates the family companies in Oklahoma City.

Not only was Nathan's father, Harold, on the SMACNA board of directors, but he was also a member of the college of fellows, a prestigious group within the SMACNA community. While a part of SMACNA, he won the two highest awards given by the organization. Before Harold passed away in 2016, Nathan was elected to the board, making his father and the rest of his family extremely proud.

I am most impressed by Nathan's devotion to his faith and his family. He has been married to his wife, Shannon, for 19 years. Nathan has two stepchildren, Hayley and Jordan, one daughter, Olivia, and one grandchild, Zaidan. With 20 kids and grandkids myself, I can attest to the true joy faith and family bring to one's life.

I want to congratulate Nathan Dills on this well-deserved position and wish him well in his new role as SMACNA president.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY "TONY" PAESANO

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Anthony "Tony" Paesano, an accomplished educator, Korean war veteran, a beloved public servant, and my dear friend, who left a significant imprint on my home State of West Virginia.

Born in Follansbee, in the scenic northern panhandle, Tony has always had a passion for the noble profession of education. He was a walk-on for the Duquesne University football team in 1948 where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in education. Following his discharge from the U.S. Army, Tony began his nearly 40-year career as an educator, serving as principal of Brooke High School for 16 years.

There is much to be said about someone who gives so much to our Nation, then comes home to give even more to their home State and community. Prior to the start of his teaching career, Tony put his Duquesne ROTC training to use in the Army serving as a second lieutenant in Korea from 1952 to 1954. In fact, in 2017, I was honored to recognize Tony when he was selected as Veteran of the Year by the Brooke County Veteran Memorial Park Foundation. He is well known for his work honoring his fellow veterans. He has also served as master of ceremonies at Memorial Day and Veterans Day services in Follansbee and led the efforts to