

slandered in the 1980s, when people both inside and outside the Congress blatantly and shamelessly distorted his record to claim he would do terrible things if confirmed to the Supreme Court.

It is actually in the dictionary now, literally. Judge Bork's last name is in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as a verb. This is what "Bork" means: "to attack or defeat (a nominee or candidate for public office) unfairly through an organized campaign of harsh public criticism or vilification." To be Borked is now in the dictionary. It is completely unfair vilification.

Looking back, most people agree now that this episode was grossly unfair, insulted the intelligence of the American people, and stained the history of the U.S. Senate.

Jeffrey Rosen was a Democrat who worked in Senator Biden's office on the Democrats' side during that episode. Here is what he wrote a few years ago:

I remember feeling that the nominee was being treated unfairly. Senator Edward Kennedy set the tone with a demagogic attack. . . . Bork's record was distorted beyond recognition. . . . It [was] bad for the country.

This was a man named Jeffrey Rosen—a Democrat—who worked in Senator Biden's office during this episode.

Here is what a lawyer who helped lead the anti-Bork effort wrote just last year:

I regret my part in what I now regard as a terrible political mistake.

He was seized with guilt after all these years of having participated in this Borking. Because of that episode, he goes on, "we have undermined public confidence in the judiciary."

There is widespread and bipartisan agreement that trying to Bork judicial nominees is harmful to our Democratic process and to our judiciary.

Judge Kavanaugh's impressive record, impeccable credentials, and his enormous, bipartisan fan club of judicial peers and legal scholars all attest to the outstanding service he would render on the Supreme Court. I am glad that outside fact checkers are already swatting down Democrats' desperate attacks on his nomination.

In a breaking-news bombshell report just last night, we learned that Judge Kavanaugh enjoys America's pastime. Investigative reporters scoured his financial disclosures and learned that he and his friends buy tickets to baseball games and that he pays his bills. As you can see, there is still plenty of silliness to go around.

I urge every one of my colleagues to treat Judge Kavanaugh's record truthfully and treat the confirmation process with the respect that it and this institution in which we serve deserve. We need to act like a responsible United States Senate going through a confirmation process to the United States Supreme Court.

WORK OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, while Judge

Kavanaugh's nomination has filled the headlines this week, the Senate has continued to attend to important business. Yesterday, the Senate voted to proceed to conference with the House on the first three of this year's appropriations bills. I understand the conferees are planning to meet as soon as today. The day before, we voted to go to conference on this year's Defense authorization bill. Soon, we will do the same with respect to the farm bill.

I am proud that we are continuing to deliver on our commitment to bring regular order back to the appropriations process, along with attending to the needs of our Armed Forces and confirming more of the President's nominees. Let's keep this momentum going. I hope the collaborative, bipartisan approach that Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and our subcommittee chairmen have brought to the appropriations process will continue to characterize our progress on the floor as well. With continued hard work and steady cooperation, we can achieve our shared goal of funding our government through the regular appropriations process.

JOB GROWTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, the evidence keeps mounting that with Republicans at the helm in the White House, the House, and the Senate, the American people are enjoying what amounts to the most pro-worker, pro-opportunity economic moment in recent history.

Already in 2018, the number of Americans who say it is a good time to find a quality job has risen to its highest level in at least 17 years of data on record. The jobs report released last week showed, in June, that the rate of hire throughout the United States hit an 11-year high.

Interestingly, American workers voluntarily left their jobs at the highest rate in 17 years. What that means—and I would like to drill down on that point for a moment—is that during the Obama administration, we heard a great deal of talk from our Democratic friends about a phenomenon they called job lock.

The idea was that many workers were trapped in jobs that did not pay enough or did not take full advantage of their skills because there weren't enough open opportunities to justify taking the leap and looking for a better position.

Republicans agreed with our Democratic colleagues that we could build a better economy for middle-class workers. We just didn't think tax increases and massive new regulations were the way to do it. Now, following a year and a half of Republican policies, including historic tax reform, the voluntary quit rate has hit a 17-year high. Workers now feel free to climb up the ladder and move on to bigger and better things.

I have just one more data point: This economy is thriving, and the Repub-

licans' bold agenda is helping to make it happen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Ney nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul C. Ney, Jr., of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

ANNAPOLIS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss a topic far too many of my colleagues have also had to face—yet another fatal mass shooting in their State. This time it was in Annapolis, MD, in our State capital.

Exactly 2 weeks ago, on June 28, at about 2:30 p.m., a 38-year-old man who had a longstanding spurious grudge against the Capital Gazette newspaper made good on his sworn threats. He entered the newspaper offices, headed to the newsroom, and by the time he was done, he had shot and killed five employees of this community newspaper.

The Capital Gazette is the local paper of record in Annapolis. It is one of the oldest, continuously published newspapers in the United States. It traces its roots back to the Maryland Gazette, which began publishing in 1727, and to the Capital, which was founded in 1884.

This loss of life is personal to so many in Annapolis and around our State. You need to understand that the Capital Gazette is as much a part of the fabric of Annapolis as the State government it covers. It is perhaps embodied in Thomas Jefferson's famous quote: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Just 2 weeks ago, a man with a shotgun—a man who had made known his threats against this paper—purposefully entered the building which houses the Capital Gazette and killed people.

Let me take a moment to mourn those lost and to thank the first responders who first appeared on the scene literally 60 seconds after the first 911 call. Location means everything in

so many areas. On this day, 2 weeks ago, the fact that there were Anne Arundel County police officers down the street from the Capital Gazette offices at the time the shooting started most definitely saved lives. According to the Annapolis police chief, Timothy Altomare, within 2 minutes, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the Annapolis Police Department, and the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office had rushed into the offices and into the newsroom to apprehend the gunman.

State and Federal law enforcement—including the FBI, the ATF, and many others—arrived soon thereafter to support local officials in their efforts to clear the building and meticulously investigate the scene. I want to thank each and every one of those law enforcement officers, from the individuals who rushed into the newsroom not knowing what danger they might encounter to those helping get others to safety, to those gathering the evidence to ensure nothing was lost in the bustle and chaos of the moment, and to those diverting traffic so that people could be safely evacuated and the investigators could do their jobs safely. I thank each and every professional who did their job and contributed to this emergency response.

We often say about our first responders that when we run from trouble, they run to it in order to save our lives. We owe our first responders our thanks and our admiration for the manner in which they handled this assignment under extreme circumstances.

Unfortunately, when faced with an individual intent on killing, lives were lost despite the swift response by law enforcement. Among them was Gerald Fischman, 61, who was an editor with more than 25 years of service with the Capital Gazette and was known at the newspaper and throughout the community for his brilliant mind and writing. Most often, it was his voice and his insightfulness that came through on the editorial pages of the Capital Gazette.

Fischman was described by Rick Hutzell, the Capital Gazette's editor, as "someone whose life was committed to protecting our community by telling hard truths."

Rob Hiaasen, 59, was a columnist, editor, teacher, and storyteller who brought compassion and humor to his community-focused reporting. Rob was described as a coach and mentor to many. According to former Baltimore Sun columnist Susan Reimer, he was "so happy working with young journalists. . . . He wanted to create a newsroom where everyone was growing."

John McNamara, 56, was a skilled writer and avid sports fan, who combined these passions in his 24-year career as a sports reporter at the Capital Gazette.

Former Capital Gazette sports editor Gerry Jackson said of McNamara—or "Mac," as he went by:

He could write. He could edit. He could design pages. He was just a jack of all trades and a fantastic person.

Rebecca Smith, 34, was a newly hired sales assistant known for her kindness, compassion, and love for her family. "Becca," as she was known, was described by a friend of her fiancé as "the absolute most beautiful person" with "the biggest heart" and called her death "a great loss to this world."

Wendi Winters, 65, was a talented writer. She built her career as a public relations professional and journalist. She was well-known for her profound reporting on the lives and achievements of people within the community. She was a "proud Navy Mom" and Navy daughter.

As we learn more about the details of the shooting from the survivors, it is clear that Wendi herself saved lives during the attack. According to the Capital Gazette editorial that ran this past Tuesday, Wendi confronted and distracted the gunman with whatever she could find around her. The paper noted:

Wendi died protecting her friends, but also in defense of her newsroom from a murderous assault. Wendi died protecting freedom of the press.

My heartfelt condolences and prayers continue to go out to the families of those who were killed in this attack. They did not send their loved ones off to work that day knowing it would be the last day they would see them alive. It isn't right, and it never should have happened.

The surviving staff members also deserve our praise for their resilience and dedication to their mission as journalists and their respect for their fallen colleagues. During and after the attack, staff continued to report by tweets, sharing information to those outside, taking photos and documenting information as they would at other crime scenes. Despite their grief, shock, anger, and mourning, surviving staff—with the help from their sister publication, the Baltimore Sun, Capital Gazette alumni, and other reporters who wanted to lend a hand to fellow journalists—put out a paper the following day, Friday, and they have done so every day since. This is known as grace under pressure.

Fittingly, the editorial page the day after the shooting was purposely left blank with just a few words. The few words were:

Today, we are speechless. This page is intentionally left blank to commemorate victims of Thursday's shootings at our office.

The staff promised that on Saturday the page would "return to its steady purpose of offering our readers informed opinion about the world around them, that they might be better citizens."

It has been incredible to witness the unity, compassion, and resilience of the Capital Gazette staff, the city of Annapolis, and Anne Arundel County.

I want to repeat one quote from the Capital Gazette editorial page that bears repeating:

Wendi Winters died protecting her friends, but also in defense of her newsroom from a murderous assault. Wendi died protecting freedom of the press.

Wendi Winters and her colleagues died protecting freedom of the press.

As Americans, we have certain rights and responsibilities granted to us through the Constitution, which establishes the rule of law in this country. Freedom of the press is central to the very first amendment of the Constitution, and it has often been under attack, figuratively speaking, since our Nation's founding.

Today, those attacks have become more frequent and more literal, spurred on by dangerous rhetoric that has nearly created an "open season" on denigrating the media and harassing reporters and editors from doing their job: answering questions that need to be asked, investigating the stories that need to be uncovered, and bringing needed transparency to the halls of power, whether they are in Annapolis, Washington, DC, or elsewhere around the world. This rhetoric has gone beyond the pale and it must stop.

Journalists, like all Americans, should be free from the fear of being violently attacked while doing their job.

On this day, 2 weeks ago, just as the public was learning about the shooting at the Capital Gazette, I stopped in for a meeting one of my staffers was having with a group of students to talk about gun violence and school safety. Since what happened in Parkland—and we recently had an episode in our own State—I have been meeting with students on a frequent basis just to hear their concerns. In all circumstances, the students have expressed to me their fear and frustration with regard to how safe they feel in their schools. Some are angry, and all of them want to know when the adults will finally start acting like adults and do something to keep them and their country safe. Without fail, students have told me that "thoughts and prayers" simply are not enough. Thoughts and prayers will not protect them from bullets, and they want Congress to act.

Some of my colleagues have bought into the false rhetoric that there is nothing we can do about these acts of violence. But students in Maryland and around the country know that is not true, and so do the American people. A recent CNN poll found that 70 percent of Americans now back tougher gun safety laws. These responses get higher with each deadly incident.

Congress must act now to address the epidemic of gun violence in this country. Let's reinstate the assault weapon ban now. We can ban bump stocks now. Let us assure that all gun purchases have completed background checks.

I understand that the weapon used in the Annapolis shootings was a shotgun. It would not have been covered under these new laws. But the fact remains that if we pass sensible gun safety laws, we will save lives.

I do want to say clearly that “doing something” does not mean arming educators or bringing more guns into our schools. Teachers are hired to teach, not to be security guards. Instead of putting guns in the hands of educators, we need to get them out of the hands of attackers in the first place.

Let me conclude with these words of one of the survivors of the Capital Gazette shooting. Reporter Selene San Felice shared her thoughts in a July 1 opinion piece for the paper. She recounted the moments of the shooting and shared pretty succinctly what she thinks needs to happen next in this country. Selene wrote:

I watched John McNamara die. I had to step over Wendi Winters to escape . . .

If your help ends at thoughts and prayers, I don't want them. What I want is action.

I'm not just talking to the president, or our governor, or our elected officials. I'm talking to every single person in this nation.

We must do better. We must vote better. We must push for legislation so that this doesn't feel normal.

Rob Hiaasen, Gerald Fischman, Wendi Winters, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and thousands of people are dead because of shootings like the one I lived through.

The man who killed the people I love bought this gun legally. His record of stalking and harassment had been expunged. But even if it hadn't been, he still could have bought the gun he used to shoot Rebecca, Wendi, Rob, Gerald and John.

This is not political. I'm not asking for change as a liberal media puppet. I'm asking for something to be done for the sake of our humanity.

I think, quite frankly, Selene is speaking for many, many people in our community. We need to act. Now. For Rebecca, Wendi, Rob, Gerald, John, and the thousands of other innocent people who have been lost to needless gun violence, Congress must act. We must show that we can protect the American people, which is perhaps the most important task we have as lawmakers.

We cannot stand by and pretend we are helpless and powerless to prevent another tragedy. We can do something powerful today.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. 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. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the victims and the survivors of the terrible shooting at the Capital Gazette newspaper which occurred on June 28. I thank my friend and colleague Senator CARDIN for his remarks earlier today on this floor and thank the Senate for taking up a resolution in memory of the victims.

Our State of Maryland and the country were horrified by the tragic attacks on one of our great Maryland institutions—the Capital Gazette newspaper, the local newspaper of our State cap-

ital in Annapolis, which has been operating since 1727. It was, and is, your quintessential smalltown newspaper, which serves Annapolis and Anne Arundel County but is also a newspaper read throughout the State of Maryland.

In that awful shooting, we lost five members of the Capital Gazette: Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters.

Gerald Fischman was an editorial page editor whose thoughtful columns and sly wit shed light on critical community issues. He was well known for his insatiable curiosity and his love of family, and his talent for writing extended to poems he composed for his wife Erica.

Rob Hiaasen was a big man with a big presence who applied his considerable skills as a journalist to mentor others, both fellow reporters and students at the University of Maryland College of Journalism. He gave of his time, and he gave of his talent.

John McNamara was a sports writer and sports fan—a big fan of the University of Maryland Terps. He covered everything from the Orioles to the local Little League. He was always generous with his time and known to many who follow sports around the country.

Sales Assistant Rebecca Smith was strong and smart and a fixture at her fiancé Dwayne's softball tournaments. She was also known to be unfailingly kind and always took the time to make people feel at home at the Gazette.

Wendi Winters had a great sense of humor and an incredible ability to pull stories out of just about anyone. Her colleagues say she charged at the shooter, displaying the bravery and determination she had so many times before in her life and saving the lives of others at the newspaper in the process.

Community newspapers like the Capital Gazette are more than just sources of news; they represent the lifeblood of our communities around the country and our Nation. They report on everything, big issues and small issues, because no issue is too small if it affects people in a particular community. I think all of us know these are the reporters who stay out late at local council meetings, they are the folks at the PTA meetings, they are the folks busy collecting news important to people in a local community. This newspaper has been at this for hundreds of years.

Even after that awful shooting, the next day the Capital Gazette put out a newspaper, as they have every day since then, with the help of fellow journalists at the Baltimore Sun and elsewhere. They put out a newspaper that talked about the terrible shooting they experienced at the Capital Gazette and remembered the victims and thanked the first responders.

I also salute the first responders, an incredible and brave response from local, State, and Federal agencies. At the local level, they were on the scene within 60 to 90 seconds. Had that not

happened, we would have had even more than the terrible loss we saw that awful day.

It also should cause all of us to think again about measures we can take in our communities, in our States, and at the Federal level to stop the violence. One of the victims, Gerald Fischman, who had been an editorial writer there, had written earlier in the aftermath of the terrible shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, and here is what Gerald Fischman wrote at that time:

Of all the words this week, hopelessness may be the most dangerous. We must believe there is a solution, a way to prevent another mass shooting. We must believe that we can find it if only we try a little harder.

I ask every Member of the Senate, every Member of this Congress, every elected official, and every citizen, let's work harder to find a way to end the violence. There are things we can do to reduce the chances and the awful losses we are seeing around our country, both in mass shootings and daily violence.

As we remember these victims, I ask that we dedicate ourselves to the mission of ending the violence.

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. CORNYN. 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 OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday, I had the chance to meet with the President's nominee to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court, and I am pleased with the nominee the President has chosen. After talking to him yesterday morning, I look forward to supporting his nomination and doing whatever I can to ensure his bipartisan confirmation.

My conversation with Judge Kavanaugh refreshed my memory that we actually had met back in 2000 when I was attorney general of Texas and I was preparing to deliver an oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court—something I had never done before. Thanks to Judge Kavanaugh, who wasn't a judge at the time, Paul Clement and Ted Olson—both of whom had been Solicitor General of the United States—helped me get prepared and do the best job I was capable of doing before the Court, providing me a moot court opportunity. So it was good to catch up with Judge Kavanaugh.

I have followed Judge Kavanaugh's career closely. In the interim, obviously he has served as a circuit court judge on the DC Circuit Court. Some might call it the second most important court in the Nation, and that is primarily because it is located here in the District of Columbia, and most of the major cases involving administrative authority, Federal power, end up finding their way one way or the other