

If there are ways to improve on this legislation, I am wide open for that, but if we don't put in place an obligation that is up-to-date and a moral obligation that I think we have all honored, if we don't put in place a legal obligation to make sure that if you see evidence of foreign intervention, you report it, then shame on us.

I will close with this. We do it at the airport—you see something, say something. Shouldn't we have at least those same standards, in terms of protection of our critical democracy, going forward?

I yield the floor.

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I call my colleagues' attention to an issue that has affected many families in Iowa and throughout the country. That issue is elder abuse and neglect of those same people.

Many older Americans reside in assisted care facilities, nursing homes, and all kinds of group living arrangements. It is critical that these care facilities and the staff at the facilities not only follow the law but provide the type of care they would want their own family members to receive.

The Des Moines Register last year published reports suggesting a troubling lack of compassionate care for elderly residents in some of the nursing homes in my State. We also had other reports surfacing in 2017 of nursing home workers in at least 18 different facilities taking humiliating and unauthorized photos of elderly residents and posting them on social media websites.

Earlier this year, I convened an oversight hearing in which we heard from the daughters of two elderly women who resided in a federally funded nursing home. One testified that her mother, an Iowan, died due to neglect in a facility that held the highest possible rating—a five-star rating—on a Federal Government website. The family discovered that the nursing home was the subject of multiple complaint investigations related to those complaints in recent years. Yet, after each complaint, government inspectors reported the facility had come back “into substantial compliance with program requirements.”

At this same hearing, another witness from another State testified about her mother's rape in a nursing home.

These and similar cases around the country point to the need for reform. By one estimate, 1 in 10 persons older than the age of 60 will fall victim to elder abuse each year.

According to the inspector general at the Department of Health and Human Services, one-third of nursing home residents may experience harm while under the care of these facilities. In more than half of these cases, the harm was preventable. That is why statutes like the Elder Abuse Prevention and

Prosecution Act, which I championed in the last Congress; also the Older Americans Act, which promotes seniors' independence; and the Elder Justice Act, which I have long supported, are all very important pieces of legislation.

On Monday, I introduced a resolution designating June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. I would like to thank my lead cosponsor, Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, for joining me in introducing this legislation. The ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, as well as the leaders of Senate Aging Committee, Senators COLLINS and CASEY, along with Senators LANKFORD and HASSAN, also are original cosponsors. I thank all of them for doing that.

This bipartisan resolution recognizes those adult protective services and healthcare personnel, ombudsmen, criminal justice personnel, and advocates who help prevent and combat elder abuse in communities all around our country.

It calls for us to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse. Congress has a very key role to play in ensuring the protections of seniors, not only in the passing of legislation but in our constitutional oversight role to make sure the executive branch of government faithfully executes those laws. In faithfully executing our laws in spirit as well as in the legalese, they will be helping us prevent elder abuse.

Years ago, I joined my colleagues in developing an earlier version of the Elder Justice Act. It is time to update and extend the key programs authorized under this important law, which authorized the Elder Justice Coordinating Council and also authorized resources to support forensic centers to investigate elder abuse, among other initiatives in that important legislation. I am working closely with the members of the Elder Justice Coalition on legislation to accomplish that goal.

It is also time for us to update and extend the Older Americans Act, which I have long supported.

As Finance Committee chairman, I intend to convene a hearing to discuss ways that we can continue to promote the health and well-being of our seniors, which is an issue I have cared about for a long time.

Creating a supportive, inclusive environment in our communities is essential to preventing elder abuse, and that is what the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is all about.

I urge my colleagues to join me in raising awareness for the most vulnerable among us, protecting our loved ones and protecting people we don't know, but in the process of our doing that, we empower all citizens to take a stand against elder abuse.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRENT ZOUCHA

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to continue my tribute to Nebraska's heroes and the current generation of men and women who have given their lives while defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of these Nebraskans has a powerful story to tell. I will reflect today upon the life of LCpl Brent Zoucha of the Marine Corps.

Brent was born in Central City, NE, but he grew up in nearby Clarks, which is a small town of about 350 residents. While growing up, Rita, Brent's mother, described him as having a great smile and always goofing around. Brent was the youngest of four. He had two older brothers, Dominic and Dyrek, and an older sister, Sherri.

As the youngest of the bunch, Brent had to learn to adapt in the household. This would require him to wake up early to ensure he would have hot water when he got ready for the day. He was also known for acquiring his brother Dyrek's clothes as they were similar in size and only a few years apart.

Brent loved sports cars—a passion that pushed him to work at the local gas and oil shop at the age of 14. Because he was an easygoing youngster, Brent got along with all of his siblings extremely well. He loved sports and followed many professional teams, especially the New York Yankees and the Green Bay Packers. He had a very large baseball card collection and a special interest in the legendary Babe Ruth.

While living in Clarks, Brent developed his athletic ability and participated in basketball and track and field. His 6-foot-5-inch frame made him a perfect fit for both basketball and the high jump, and he was excellent at both. Rita, Brent's mother, fondly remembers the day that Brent came home while holding the rim and parts of the backboard to the basketball hoop at the school. He told her he had dunked the basketball so hard that he had broken the entire hoop. While Rita was worried about paying for a replacement, all Brent could do was laugh and smirk at his great athletic achievement.

Like many small town Nebraskan boys, Brent also spent much of his time hunting and fishing. He also had a strong bond with his animals and even trained one of his chickens to fly onto his shoulder on command. During high school, when Brent wasn't working at Pollard Propane & Oil, he could be found hanging out with his friends on the weekend or with Meghan Hammond, his long-time girlfriend.

While in high school, his older brother Dyrek enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Brent was inspired by his service to serve our country. Shortly after graduating from High Plains Community High School in May of 2005, Brent enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. The extreme discipline that his brother and other marines routinely displayed greatly interested him. He graduated from the Marine Corps Depot at San Diego in September of 2005.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force in Twentynine Palms, CA, which was the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. Coincidentally, he was assigned to the exact unit his older brother Cpl Dyrek Zoucha was in. Shortly after arriving at Twentynine Palms, he and his brother found out they would both soon be deployed to Al Anbar Province in Iraq.

This particular area of Iraq saw the majority of its fighting and counterinsurgency from 2004 until 2007. So Brent arrived in the heat of battle. Initially, fighting between insurgents and the marines in this area involved heavy urban warfare. However, the strategy evolved to focus on ambushing soldiers and Iraqi security forces.

While he was on deployment, Rita would send Brent care packages and talk on the phone with him when she could. She remembers talking on the phone with him in early June and sending him a care package of fig cookies and the game of Monopoly for a reminder of his hometown comfort, but this was the last conversation they would have and the last care package Rita would send to Brent. While conducting a combat mission on June 9, 2006, Brent and four other marines came across an IED. Tragically, Brent and the four other marines lost their lives due to the wounds they sustained.

The entire Central Nebraska community was in complete shock upon learning of Brent's death. Services were held on June 21, 2006, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Clarks, and the funeral took place at the Calvary Cemetery. American flags and Patriot Guard Riders lined the streets from the church to the cemetery. Rita later received condolence letters from all over the United States, including from President George W. Bush, then-Senator Hagel, Governor Schwarzenegger, and numerous fellow soldiers and marines. Rita continues to honor those who have served by working at the local VFW.

If you visit Clarks today, you will see Brent Zoucha Memorial Lane, which has been dedicated in his honor. Rita will always cherish Brent as the ideal son who loved his life and everyone around him. I am honored to tell his story.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following morning business on Tuesday, June 18, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Cairncross nomination, and the cloture vote on the nomination occur at 12 noon. I further ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m., and if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the Cairncross nomination, the Senate vote on the pending cloture motions on the following nominations in the order listed: Executive Calendar Nos. 22, 28, 50, and 118; that if cloture is invoked, the confirmation votes occur on Wednesday, June 19, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader. I further ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to S. 1790 ripen following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 118.

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

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3151.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3151) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3151) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACK ON THE CHABAD OF POWAY SYNAGOGUE NEAR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, ON APRIL 27, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 231, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 231) condemning the horrific anti-Semitic attack on the Chabad of Poway Synagogue near San Diego, California, on April 27, 2019.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 231) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 5, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019, AND TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only with no business conducted on Monday, June 17, 2019, at 3 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, June 17, it next convene at 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each until 11:30 a.m.; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.