

the deadliest mass shooting in the United States this year.

In a community as tight-knit as El Paso, the devastation was immeasurable, and I would note that the shooter traveled from another part of the State to El Paso. He was not from El Paso. The heartbreaking confusion quickly turned into rage when we learned that the shooter was a White supremacist whose crime could only be described as domestic terrorism.

The day after the shooting, I visited El Paso and met with several of the victims, as well as the law enforcement officers responding to the tragedy. Members of the community created a memorial to honor those who lost their lives, and on that first day, it was relatively small, about 4 feet wide.

By the time I returned to El Paso with President Trump and the First Lady, 3 days later, this 4-foot-wide memorial had grown to hundreds of feet wide. The outpouring by the community was overwhelming.

In the face of tragedy and unthinkable grief, the strength and support of the entire community from that memorial to the long line of folks waiting to donate blood, to the donations to help the victims was truly remarkable.

As I also indicated at the beginning of my remarks, less than a month later, we experienced another shooting. A man went on a shooting rampage between Midland and Odessa, killing 7 people and wounding 25 others. When I visited Odessa this last week, I met Odessa police officer James Santana, who was injured in the shooting but fortunately is expected to make a full recovery.

When I asked the police chief in Ector County, which is where Odessa is located: What do you think we might be able to do in Washington that would help, he said: Well, we just don't have adequate resources to deal with people suffering from a mental health crisis. That might be one area where you could help.

I had the pleasure of thanking the men and women in blue, our law enforcement officers, for their quick response in Odessa and thanked them for the work they do every day.

By the way, I also had the opportunity to travel to the White House this morning. President Trump gave an award to the police officers in Dayton, OH, who were able to stop the shooter there. He offered certificates of commendation to some of the employees of Walmart who helped save lives in the shooting episode there.

While major events like these are ones that grab the headlines, Texas law enforcement officials and officials all over the country are on the streets each and every day doing everything they can possibly do to keep our communities safe. I think it would just be negligence on our part not to continue to thank these men and women and especially those who responded to tragedies like El Paso, Midland, and Odessa.

As our State continues to grieve from this senseless loss of life, the

questions are, of course, How did this happen? How can we prevent it from happening again? Well, I know we are going to try, just as we have done in the past, to identify gaps and problems with the law and fill those gaps and save lives in the process.

If I knew how we could pass a law that would prevent people from committing crimes, we would pass it unanimously, but, unfortunately, that is not the human condition. I have been speaking with my constituents as well as colleagues in the Senate over the last few weeks about what a legislative solution might look like, and I do expect us to have a wide range of debate on the subject in the coming days.

I just spoke to a representative at the White House. They say they are putting together a set of proposals to provide the President later this week, and we look forward to hearing what the President believes these proposals should consist of.

Again, I think the model we used after the Sutherland Springs shooting in 2017 was a pretty good one, where we introduced a bill to improve the background check system and to prevent people who should not be able to purchase a firearm from doing so. We passed that legislation on a broad bipartisan basis. Had that legislation passed sooner, it could have prevented the Sutherland Springs gunman from acquiring his weapon in the first place. By lying on his background check application, knowing, perhaps, that the United States Air Force had not uploaded his conviction for domestic violence into the background check system, he was able to get away with it.

These are the kind of reforms I believe we should be looking at—real solutions to real problems. We owe it to the American people to focus on making changes that will actually work, not show votes and not talking points. We ought to be about trying to solve this problem.

The American people are smart. They can see what is happening up here when we resort to the same old tired talking points and are not really engaged in trying to find solutions. They see through it, and we owe it to them and owe it to ourselves and owe it to people who might otherwise become future victims to do everything we can to provide the tools to law enforcement to try to prevent as many of these deaths as we can.

In the case of the Fix NICS Act, it was able to become law because it had broad support from Republicans and Democrats as well as the President. This will guide my approach. Again, I am not interested in scoring political points or introducing bills so we can pat ourselves on the back and run our next campaign on it. I am actually interested in trying to solve the problem and saving lives in the process. That is what we did on the Fix NICS Act.

The leader made it clear that if there is a proposal out there that is able

meet these same criteria, we will consider it on the floor of the Senate. He has asked us to come together and figure out what that legislation would look like. While there are certainly differences on both sides of the aisle about what we should do, I hope all of us can remember we share a common goal of stopping these mass shootings to the extent we humanly can.

Again, if we knew how to pass a law to prevent people from committing crimes, we would have already done that. We may not be able to do that, but we sure can, I think, make some progress and hopefully save some lives in the process.

There are a lot of discussions about ways to do that, and I am hopeful we can reach an agreement soon. We cannot allow these acts of violence to somehow become the new normal. As we keep the victims and their families and the dedicated law enforcement officers impacted by the shooting in our prayers, we owe it to all of them and to ourselves to work on a solution to prevent more communities from experiencing these types of tragedies.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Thune.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 263 Ex.]

YEAS—54

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Murphy |
| Blackburn | Gardner | Paul |
| Blunt | Grassley | Perdue |
| Boozman | Hassan | Portman |
| Braun | Hawley | Risch |
| Burr | Hoeven | Romney |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Rounds |
| Cassidy | Inhofe | Rubio |
| Collins | Isakson | Sasse |
| Coons | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Lankford | Shaheen |
| Cramer | Lee | Shelby |
| Crapo | Manchin | Sullivan |
| Cruz | McConnell | Thune |
| Daines | McSally | Toomey |
| Enzi | Moran | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Young |

NAYS—38

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Bennet | Hirono | Schatz |
| Blumenthal | Jones | Schumer |
| Brown | Kaine | Smith |
| Cantwell | King | Stabenow |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Tester |
| Carper | Leahy | Udall |
| Casey | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Warner |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein | Peters | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Reed | |

NOT VOTING—8

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| Alexander | Harris | Sinema |
| Booker | Roberts | Tillis |
| Graham | Sanders | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO VINCE DOOLEY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise for a moment to pay tribute to a great Georgian and his wife who this past Saturday in Athens, GA, before the University of Georgia football game, were honored by naming the field at the Sanford Stadium, Dooley Field.

Vince Dooley coached Georgia to a national championship in 1980 and coached Herschel Walker, probably the most famous running back in the history of football. He was also a great contributor to the university, contributing millions of dollars himself, personally, to see that libraries were built. He wrote seven books, including

a book on flowers, which is the one that all botanists around the world pay attention to, and he is an expert historian on the Civil War. He is just a great American. He went to Auburn, but he recovered and came to Georgia.

He started coaching at Georgia and did better and better until he got us a national championship. This weekend, as our senior past athletic director and past coach, we named the field at Georgia after Vince Dooley for 25 years of outstanding service to the university and a lifetime of service to education.

May God bless Vince Dooley, Barbara Dooley, and their family. Congratulations to the University of Georgia and congratulations to Vince.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Craft nomination expire at 11:50 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Darling nomination, the postcloture time expire at 2:15 p.m. and if either of these nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, following disposition of the Darling nomination, the Senate vote on cloture motions for the Akard, Cabaniss, and Byrne nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF ED BRADY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is a distinct privilege to recognize my friend, Henderson County Sheriff Ed Brady, who is celebrating 50 years of a remarkable law enforcement career. Throughout his distinguished service, Ed has answered the call of duty and protected Kentucky families and communities. I am proud to join his family, colleagues, and friends in marking this golden anniversary.

Ed began his career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the Kentucky State Police. He joined the department while in college, attending classes all day before working the dispatch's third shift overnight. It cer-

tainly wasn't easy, but the experience showed Ed's work ethic and steadfast commitment to the public's safety.

Although his father was a Kentucky State Police Trooper, Ed never thought he would be one himself, but after a few years as a dispatcher, he heard the calling to leave the office and enter the academy. As the youngest member of his class—and for a time the youngest trooper in Kentucky—Ed focused diligently on his training to get the experience he needed to excel. For 22 years, Ed worked for the Kentucky State Police, earning a reputation for his leadership and service.

Ed remembers his decision to leave the Kentucky State Police was among the hardest of his entire life, but he was presented with an offer too good to turn down. The City of Henderson, Ed's hometown, asked him to lead their police force as its chief. Although it was a major shift from his previous job, he was ready to hit the ground running. In fact, he was sworn-in as the Henderson Chief of Police only hours after turning in his State trooper badge.

As the new police chief, Ed knew he had to work to earn the trust of both his law enforcement colleagues and the Henderson community. To address the former, he invested a great deal of time into hearing from his new officers and building relationships. To gain the respect of the citizens of Henderson, Ed implemented community policing practices. He and his officers went directly into previously underserved areas in a coordinated effort with the city government. He organized more bicycle and foot patrols and a committee focused on minority relations.

Looking back on his career, Ed called the transformation of this area of Henderson his proudest accomplishment because, in his words, "We gave people back their neighborhood."

After more than a decade and half as a successful chief, Ed was on the lookout for a new challenge. He wanted to get back to his rural-policing roots and decided to run for Henderson County Sheriff. Since his first election and for the last 12 years, he has done just that. As Sheriff, Ed leads his deputies with distinction.

Over the years, I have worked with Ed on a number of projects in our Commonwealth, including to deliver critical resources to bolster the work of local law enforcement. It is an honor to call him a dear friend. To celebrate his golden anniversary in law enforcement, Ed's family and colleagues surprised him with an event in his honor. He certainly deserves our recognition for his dedication to his community and his years of leadership in Kentucky. I would also like to recognize his wife Amy, an impressive public servant in her own right. As Henderson County's jailer, Amy is the other half of this remarkable team. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in marking this wonderful occasion and wishing Ed and Amy many more successful years to come.