

rest of us can live in peace and safety. We owe them a debt we can never repay. This year, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to make the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent to ensure that first responders whose health has suffered in the wake of their work at Ground Zero, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania will have the resources they need.

While we are on the subject of veterans, like all of my colleagues, I am saddened that Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON is retiring at the end of this year.

We were members of the same freshman class in 2004. During his time here, he has been a tireless advocate for veterans, and he will be deeply missed. Yet his hard work in the Senate as the head of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will continue to bear fruit, and we will continue to work to implement the VA reforms he shepherded to ensure our veterans receive the care they have earned.

I was here in Washington, DC, on September 11, and I evacuated the Capitol Complex. One of the things I remember very clearly from that day were the Capitol police officers who directed us out of the buildings. We were running from the danger, and they were not. They were not going anywhere until they were sure every last man and woman had made his way out.

Against that spirit of courage and self-sacrifice, evil will never ultimately triumph. May God bless all of those who stand between us and danger. May He bless the victims of September 11 and their families, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

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. CRAPO. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 MICHELLE BOWMAN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nomination of Governor Michelle Bowman to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

First, I will speak about Governor Bowman. Michelle Bowman currently serves as a Governor on the Federal Reserve Board and was the first person to fill the Federal Reserve's community banking seat, after her confirmation last year by a bipartisan vote of 64 to 34. Her current term expires on January 30, 2020, and President Trump has renominated her to the same position for a full 14-year term.

Prior to serving as Governor, she was the State bank commissioner of Kansas from January 2017 to November 2018.

She also served as vice president of a Kansas-based community bank, Farmers & Drivers Bank, between 2010 and 2017 and served in a number of government roles.

Confirming Governor Bowman to a new 14-year term will provide the needed stability on the Board.

During her current term as Governor, she has played a crucial role at the Federal Reserve by providing the community banking perspective and highlighting their importance to people, households, and small businesses across this Nation, as well as the U.S. economy broadly. She has also contributed meaningfully toward appropriately tailoring regulations in accordance with S. 2155.

If confirmed, I am confident her experience and skill will continue to benefit the Board in promoting the effective operation of the U.S. economy and serving the public interest. I will be voting in support of Governor Bowman and urge my colleagues to vote in support of her nomination, as well, today.

Turning for a moment to another important issue regarding the Federal Reserve, I want to reinforce that maintaining the independence of the Federal Reserve is of the utmost importance in this country.

The recent remarks made by former New York Fed President Dudley urging the Federal Reserve to sway an election by using monetary policy are incredibly troubling. The job of the Federal Reserve is to provide this Nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. I continue to encourage the Federal Reserve to conduct its monetary policy while remaining independent of politics.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS PETER FEDDO

Mr. President, now I would like to turn to the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or what we often call CFIUS.

CFIUS plays an important role in today's investment market by reviewing the national security implications of certain transactions involving foreign investment in the United States. Congress recognized and underscored the importance of this national security job when it repurposed the previous Assistant Secretary slot with passage of FIRRMA last July.

Up until that time, the Assistant Secretary split his time between CFIUS and work on international markets, and, today, the Assistant Secretary for Investment Security is dedicated 100 percent to CFIUS responsibilities.

Mr. Feddo's nomination comes at an important time in history, when China's ambitions forced Congress to reevaluate the reliance of U.S.-China commerce and the laws and regulations governing that connectivity.

FIRRMA expanded the jurisdictional reach of CFIUS to better protect U.S.

cutting-edge technology companies from hostile foreign takeover and influence based on a couple of concerns. First, CFIUS did not have visibility into many investments from China that might provide coercive influence over U.S. cutting-edge technology companies. Second, these investments were resulting in technology transfers that could convey capabilities, advancing Chinese economic and security interests while restricting the U.S. military and national security structure from leveraging that technology.

FIRRMA not only increased the bandwidth of CFIUS but also expanded the resources given to it to meet the new level of today's challenges.

The time is now to fill this sensitive vacancy.

Thomas Feddo is the ideal candidate to take up the mantle because he has the keen intellect and natural suspicions of a dedicated financial warrior. He currently leads the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Investment Security in executing Treasury's statutory role as the chair of CFIUS during one of the most trying times that investment markets have seen. For over a year now, he has led the CFIUS team at Treasury, but before that, he put in a 7-year tour at the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, where he oversaw implementation and enforcement of some 29 U.S. sanctions programs.

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, with a degree in naval engineering, Mr. Feddo served as a lieutenant in the Navy's nuclear submarine force and as an officer at the Navy Antiterrorist Alert Center. Because of his unique experience and his technical education, once confirmed, Mr. Feddo will hit the ground running, moving CFIUS forward in pursuit of its continuing mission to guard U.S. technological leadership from foreign adversaries.

I look forward to continuing conversations with him on opportunities to improve America's foreign investment review system, which requires constant vigilance. I also look forward to working with him on how we can make CFIUS programs more effective and efficient and be a faithful steward of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Feddo enjoys nearly unanimous support from stakeholders, which speaks volumes to his strong track record of experience and expertise. Thomas Feddo's nomination was advanced by voice vote in the Senate Banking Committee on June 18, 2019, with overwhelming bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues once again to vote to confirm him to this critical post.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take just a moment to remember the thousands of innocent lives lost 18 years ago today and to thank the first responders who so bravely sacrificed their lives in the service of others.

September 11 is a day that will always weigh heavily upon our Nation, but it is also a day that shows the strength and resiliency of the American people. In response to tragedy, we saw beyond our differences and came together as a country. That is the lesson we must never forget.

Today, I come to the floor as a voice for families in my home State of Washington who have had enough of just “thoughts and prayers” and as a mother and a grandmother who has had enough of them too. My heart breaks with every report of another horrific mass shooting.

Like my colleagues here today and the rest of our country, I watched in horror last month as devastating gun violence claimed dozens of innocent lives and threw our communities into a state of panic yet again. This heartbreak has become all too familiar to so many of us—from El Paso and Odessa, to Dayton, to Maryville in my home State of Washington, and in schools and movie theaters and community spaces across our country. So what we are doing here today is refusing to accept this as normal and demanding the change that so many families are crying out for.

Democrats are committed to heeding the voices of countless people back in Washington State and across our country who are desperate for leaders in this Washington—including President Trump and Leader MCCONNELL—to address this crisis. That is why I am joining my colleagues on the Senate floor throughout today to call on Leader MCCONNELL to take up commonsense gun safety legislation, starting with universal background checks.

We know universal background checks save lives by closing dangerous loopholes to help keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. That is why more than 80 percent of Americans support universal background checks and are demanding immediate action from Congress to make universal background checks the law of the land.

There certainly are other steps we can take as well. We could strengthen the extreme risk protection orders, which have worked in my home State of Washington. We could revive the assault weapons ban, invest in gun violence prevention research, and regulate firearm magazine limits. All of those steps could save lives and prevent more families from enduring the horrific pain and trauma too many already have. But H.R. 8—the universal background check legislation that has already passed the House—is literally sitting here in the Senate, waiting to be called up for a vote.

As I close, I want to be clear. Passing universal background checks must be this body’s first order of business if we are serious about protecting people and helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands. I and all of my Democratic colleagues and so many others are going to keep up the pressure as long as we have to, to get this done.

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

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

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Baldwin	Durbin	McConnell
Barrasso	Enzi	McSally
Blackburn	Ernst	Menendez
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Merkley
Blunt	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gardner	Murkowski
Braun	Graham	Murphy
Brown	Grassley	Murray
Burr	Hassan	Paul
Cantwell	Hawley	Perdue
Capito	Heinrich	Peters
Cardin	Hirono	Portman
Carper	Hoeven	Reed
Casey	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cassidy	Inhofe	Romney
Collins	Isakson	Rosen
Coons	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Jones	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Sasse
Cotton	Kennedy	Schatz
Cramer	King	Schumer
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Leahy	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lee	Shaheen
Duckworth	Manchin	Shelby

Sinema	Thune	Warner
Smith	Tillis	Whitehouse
Stabenow	Toomey	Wicker
Sullivan	Udall	Wyden
Tester	Van Hollen	Young

NAYS—2

Gillibrand Markey

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Harris	Sanders
Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Booker	Roberts	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think everyone knows today is the anniversary of 9/11. Many of us here remember evacuating this very building on September 11, 2001. We knew the world would never be the same.

For the people of New York, an ordinary beautiful morning was brought to a screeching halt as the clear blue sky filled with smoke. For those at the Pentagon, the workdays in service of our Nation turned into a literal nightmare. For hundreds of air travelers, routine flights gave way to tragedy, and, thanks to the bravery of passengers and crew, incredible acts of heroism.

The Senate stands with the entire Nation as we remember the terrible events of 18 years ago today and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives that terrorists stole away. We stand in solidarity with those who still grieve, and we honor the patriotic resolve that inspired first responders, U.S. servicemembers, and countless Americans who dedicated themselves, that day and since, to selflessly keeping our Nation safe.

May our remembrances renew our commitment to building a world where terrorist evil has no home. May we never forget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I join the leader. Eighteen years ago, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, and our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania.

More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day. I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on the way up, and a firefighter whom I went around the city doing blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year we correctly and appropriately pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those whom we lost and think of them. The day after 9/11, I called for every American to wear the flag. I wear this flag every day. I have worn it every day since then in memory of them.

We also remember our resiliency and the resiliency of New Yorkers, the brave firefighters, police officers, and