

our Nation was forever changed. Common terms we think about today like “TSA,” or “terror watch list,” or “Department of Homeland Security,” or “Global Entry,” or “body scanners,” or “PATRIOT Act”—those didn’t exist on September 10, 2001. They have all come since then as our Nation learns how to do more security, learns how to engage, and has learned a painful lesson that what people think in an isolated village in a remote country—what they think matters to us because what they may carry out, if left alone and ignored, could kill our family members and our fellow Americans.

Almost 3,000 Americans died that day, but since that time period, we have pushed back not against the people of Afghanistan or the people of Iraq, not against Muslims or a faith but against a specific ideology that intensely hates the freedom of America and who intentionally plans to kill Americans they have never met.

We learned a new ideology as a nation that day; that we have to not only take it seriously but that we must not wait until they carry out a fight. If they are planning it, if they are preparing it, if they have the capability, we should assume they are actually going to do it.

Since that time period, American men and women have taken the fight to people who want to come and kill more Americans, but it has also been at a great cost of American blood and treasure: 4,432 Americans have died in Iraq; 2,353 Americans have died in Afghanistan. Fifty-one of those are my fellow Oklahomans in Afghanistan; 72 of those are my fellow Oklahomans in Iraq.

Today, I pulled out of my closet a specific tie that I rarely wear. It was a tie given to me by a Gold Star Wife who never ever wanted to be a Gold Star Wife. She just wanted to be the wife of Chris Horton, whom she intensely loved, who went to Afghanistan to serve his country in the Oklahoma National Guard and died for our freedom. Two years later, she handed me this tie and said: He hated wearing ties, but you have to wear them all the time. Just remember him.

We, as Americans, will not forget, and we have not forgotten. There are flags out all over America today just to remember. There are moms and dads who really hugged their kids tight this morning before they left for school, and the kids didn’t even know why. They just did. There are places where people are gathering to pray for peace because as a nation we are a nation of peace, and we have no desire for war. In fact, we detest the pain and penalty and blood and loss of war, and we have no desire to be at war across the world, but it came to us, and we look forward to the day when guns are silent again and this finally concludes and a time of peace can be restored again.

Today, though, we are just a nation remembering and praying for that time of peace that will come, and we are

telling Gold Star families and families who have sent their loved ones around the world to places they had never seen before: We have not forgotten, and we are grateful that we serve together as a nation.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say at the outset, I join with the sentiments expressed by the Senator from Oklahoma and our colleagues on the floor, starting with a moment of silence until this last speech, in remembering the historic American significance of September 11.

The fact that both political parties came together shows there is hope that when it comes to this Nation and its values, what brings us together is a powerful force. Today it is the force of memory, the force of promise, and the force of the future of this country. I want to salute my colleagues, particularly my friend from Oklahoma for his moving statement about families in his State touched by this tragedy.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. President, I would like to change topics for just a moment to another important issue that has risen today and I believe is worthy of comment.

Just a few hours ago, the White House, the President, the First Lady, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration made a historic announcement when it comes to vaping and e-cigarettes.

They just finished the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey. What they have found is that in a 1-year period of time, the number of our kids who are using these vaping products and e-cigarette products has gone up from 20 percent to 27.5 percent. In the previous year, it had gone up by 80 percent, and it is continuing to skyrocket because it is an addiction which is so popular with children.

Our kids don’t know any better. They are being told by JUUL and other companies that somehow this vaping is really a healthy alternative to tobacco cigarettes. That has yet to be proven, and the Food and Drug Administration challenged JUUL and the other companies to come up with clinical proof of that statement before they repeat it again and again and again.

In the course of the last several years, the sale of these e-cigarettes and vaping products has mushroomed dramatically in the United States. Just ask any school principal, teacher, and many parents, and they will tell you what is happening. Kids don’t understand that these flavors they are buying—flavor pods like Unicorn Milk, Gummy Bears, Bubble Gum—sound like some sweet candy treat, but when you inhale it into your lungs, you run the risk of real damage.

So far, over 450 American kids have been admitted to hospitals because of lung problems from vaping. Six have died. These young people do not understand how risky this is.

Have you walked down the street and seen somebody with a big cloud of white smoke over their head as they exhale from one of these vaping devices? They don’t realize that what they are ingesting in their lungs could be deadly.

The Food and Drug Administration and the Secretary of Health and Human Services made an announcement today that is significant. They announced that the e-cigarette device and flavors that are now being sold are going to be taken off the market, out of retail stores, off of online sales. Then, come May of next year, those who want to bring these flavors back have to justify them as being consistent with being good for public health.

I ask that the RECORD note that Senator MURKOWSKI and I have joined in a bill we introduced last year, a bill which went after these flavor pods. I want to thank her. There weren’t a lot of Senators who were willing to step up, and she did. On a bipartisan basis, we set out to ban any of these flavor pods that were dangerous to children and couldn’t be proven to be harmless. I thank her for that leadership. I believe our legislation and our constant pressure on this administration came to this moment today where we are stepping forward.

We are making it clear in the United States of America that we know vaping targets kids. We know these targeted kids are risking their health and their life by continuing to use e-cigarettes and vaping. With this administration today, on a bipartisan basis, we are banning these flavor pods once and for all. We are going to try to move forward.

The last thing I will say is this: I hope the Surgeon General or one of the other leaders in public health in our government will step up now and notify every school principal in America to call an assembly, to gather the parents, and let them know about this danger. There are 5 million kids in this country vaping today. Let’s hope they can stop, and stop soon, before they harm themselves.

I salute the administration for its leadership on this matter. I worked on it for quite a few years. It is a good moment in our history that we are moving together on a bipartisan basis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Maine.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, earlier today we paused and commemorated those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Eighteen years have passed, but the memory of that day remains as vivid as if it were yesterday. We each have our own recollections of where we were and what we were doing as the horrifying terrorist attacks on our country began to unfold.

I remember having the television on and watching a report that a plane—

originally reported as a small plane—had struck one of the Twin Towers. I then shortly thereafter saw the second aircraft strike the World Trade Center. It was then that I knew our country was under attack. I told my staff to stay away from the Capitol Building because I feared it, too, could be a target.

Today, we all still share the powerful emotions of shock, anger, and grief. I was worried about not only my staff, those in the buildings, but also staff members who were on their way back from Portland, ME, which turns out to be where some of the terrorists began their journey of death and destruction that day.

On the evening of that terrible day, Members of Congress gathered together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. With tears in our eyes and sorrow in our hearts, together we sang “God Bless America.” The emotions of shock, anger, and grief were joined by unity, resolve, and patriotism. That sense that swept over us as we sang was a source of strength in the challenges that we faced in the fight against terrorism.

So many were killed that horrific day. In my State of Maine, we remember Robert and Jackie Norton of Lubec, a devoted retired couple who boarded Flight 11 to celebrate a son’s wedding on the west coast. We remember James Roux of Portland, an Army veteran and a devoted father, who was on his way to a business meeting in California. We remember Robert Schlegel of Gray, who was celebrating his recent promotion to the rank of commander in the U.S. Navy and was still settling into his new office at the Pentagon when the plane struck. We remember Stephen Ward of Gorham, who was working on the 101st floor of the North Tower that terrible morning.

On this solemn anniversary, we join all Americans in remembering the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives that day—lives of accomplishment, contribution, and promise. Each loss leaves a wound in the hearts of families and friends that can never be fully healed.

We honor the heroes of that day. We are still moved by the selfless courage of the men and women on Flight 93 who wrestled that plane to the ground in Pennsylvania, sacrificing their lives so that others might live. We are inspired by the firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers at the World Trade Center who continued to climb upward to rescue those who were in peril even as the Twin Towers were tumbling down. The New York City Fire Department alone lost 343 firefighters who responded to the attacks.

We pay tribute today and every day to the first responders, the military personnel, and the civilians who rushed into the smoke and flames at the Pentagon to lead others to safety.

We express our gratitude to those who have given so much to defend our Nation against terrorism, the men and women of our Armed Forces.

While millions of Americans watched in horror as the tragedy unfolded on that terrible day, the thousands of courageous first responders who rushed to the World Trade Center, who rushed to that field in Pennsylvania, who rushed to the Pentagon to help search for victims and to help bring anyone they could to safety, still inspire us. They put themselves in imminent danger to save the lives of others.

Later on, years later, we learned that the toxic dust and debris that many were exposed to have caused chronic illnesses. The overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the Senate in July to permanently reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund ensures that those first responders who risked their lives to save their fellow Americans will always be supported and their illnesses treated.

September 11 was a day of personal tragedy for so many families. It was also an attack on the United States of America and an assault on civilization. We must never forget what was lost and what remains at stake. We must continue our pledge—the pledge we made that horrific day—to do all we can to prevent future attacks.

The fundamental obligation of government is to protect its people. Since September 11, 2001, we have done much to meet that obligation, but more work remains. In the aftermath of those attacks, former Senator from Connecticut Joe Lieberman and I, as the leaders of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, worked in a bipartisan way with the leaders of the 9/11 Commission and the families of those who were lost to terrorist attacks on that day to pass the most sweeping reforms of our intelligence community since World War II. It is significant that the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 2 and that, of the hundreds of amendments that were considered, not a single one was decided by a party-line vote.

In what seemed like a moment, September 11, 2001, was transformed from a day like any other into one that forever will stand alone. The loss we re-live reminds us of the value of all that we must protect. The heroism reminds us of the unconquerable spirit of the American people. Our accomplishments remind us that we can meet any challenge. As long as we keep this day of remembrance in our hearts, we shall meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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 legislative 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 Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the

Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020 (Reappointment).

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

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 Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) 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 Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—62

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

NAYS—31

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Smith
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Paul	
Gillibrand	Reed	