

many pockets in cities across the country where this epidemic persists. At the same time, the frequency and lethality of mass shootings have rapidly increased.

The internet allows for copycats. People up to no good see someone else has killed many people and think that maybe they should do the same. We have seen the frequency of these awful mass shootings continue on and on.

We finally have an opportunity to close that loophole and keep guns from falling into the wrong hands in the first place. We have the opportunity to simply update the Brady Law—not change it, not expand it, just plug the holes that were punctured in it as time moved forward. No gun will be taken away from someone who is a law-abiding citizen by this law. No, only people who shouldn't have guns will not get them. And who could disagree with that? Certainly not the American people who are overwhelmingly on our side.

We Senate Democrats are here tonight because the House of Representatives has finally passed legislation closing the private sale loophole, marking the first time that either Chamber of Congress has passed an overhaul of a background check system since the Brady law more than 25 years ago.

What we are asking for is very simple and shouldn't cause us to come here at night. It should be an obvious thing to do: a simple up-or-down vote on legislation—an up-or-down vote on H.R. 8.

Let me say it again. Leader McConnell, put H.R. 8 up for a vote on the floor of the Senate as soon as possible. Let us do what we were sent here to do by our constituents—what our constituents demand we do, which is fix the most pressing problems facing our Nation. If we fail to do so, it is plain and simple and terrible: More innocent people will die.

Before I yield the floor, I want to thank the survivors and families of victims who have done so much to remind the American people of just what is at stake when it comes to gun violence. I keep on a desk in my office pictures of the children who were murdered in Sandy Hook given to me by their ailing and grieving parents. And those parents and the thousands and thousands of others like them—survivors who amazingly choose to light a candle to prevent greater darkness despite the darkness that had overcome their lives and that has surrounded their lives, these are beautiful people, saint-like people—and we thank them.

A year and a half ago, we watched in horror as tragedy struck the Parkland community in Florida. Once again, the safety and sanctuary of a school was torn apart by the unthinkable, but this time felt different. Almost immediately, the students started speaking out, turning their immeasurable pain into courageous advocacy. Just 2 weeks later, I welcomed these Parkland teens into my office. My God, what courage,

what fortitude, what inner strength. Even in the darkest of nights, some choose not to curse the darkness but to light a candle.

A few weeks later, I joined millions of New Yorkers who were inspired to march for change by these Parkland teens. Millions more Americans across the country did the same. And now, a little more than a year later, this Senate has the opportunity to vote on H.R. 8, universal background checks, among several other pieces of legislation passed by the House that would save lives from gun violence.

Times have changed. People forget that the Brady Bill was first introduced in 1987, 6 years after Jim Brady and President Reagan were wounded and more than 6 years before it was enacted into law. Now, we are moving from tragedy to action in a year. The movement that Jim and Sarah Brady started in the 1980s has reached a new era. The American people are no longer willing to wait months or years for change. Long gone are the days that Senate Republicans can just bury their heads in the sand and ignore that more than 30,000 Americans are killed by a gun every year. Politicians offering their thoughts and prayers just doesn't cut it anymore. It is put up or shut up.

Leader McConnell, Senate Republicans, what will you do?

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. STEWART

• Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the career of Robert L. Stewart, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general and former NASA astronaut, from Huntsville, AL. Robert Stewart is an acknowledged leader in the aerospace industry, with over 40 years of hard work and dedication throughout his career, including selfless service in the military. He has worked for decades to improve the quality of life in his community and across the State of Alabama.

Mr. Robert Stewart entered Active Duty with the U.S. Army in 1964. He spent time at Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL, as well as Fort Rucker in Dale County, AL. Mr. Stewart has military and civilian experience, flying over 40 types of airplanes and helicopters, including over 1,200 hours of jet time, 1,015 combat flight hours, and over 6,000 logged hours total flight time.

Mr. Stewart became an astronaut in August of 1979. He has logged 289 hours in space, including approximately 12 hours of extravehicular activities operations. While training for his scheduled third flight at NASA, Stewart was selected by the Army for promotion to brigadier general. He retired from the Army in 1992. Stewart has received

multiple recognitions for his distinguished service and work.

At home in north Alabama, Robert is married to Mary Jane. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. He received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1964 and a master of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1972.

I am proud to take this time to recognize Robert for his significant career. His achievements and dedication to advancing the industry have not gone unnoticed. I join Robert Stewart's friends, family, and colleagues in celebrating his career, and I thank him for his commitment to Alabama. •

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 8:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1200. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED ON JULY 24, 2019

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3196. An Act to designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the “Vera C. Rubin Observatory”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2594. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Milk Donation Reimbursement Program” ((RIN0581-AD87) (Docket No. AMS-DA-19-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2595. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cuban Assets Control Regulations” (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2596. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Board’s fiscal year 2017 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2597. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2019 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2598. A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2599. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Acquisition Regulation: Environment, Energy and Water Efficiency, Renewable Energy Technologies, Occupational Safety and Drug-Free Workplace, Protection of Privacy and Freedom of Information, Other Socioeconomic Programs, and Contract Modifications" (RIN2900-AQ24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2600. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Acquisition Regulation: Contracting by Negotiation; Service Contracting" (RIN2900-AQ20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2601. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Alaska Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Research" (RIN0648-BG64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2602. A communication from the Chief of Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hours of Service of Drivers - Restart Provisions" (RIN2126-AC30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2603. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3865" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2604. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3866" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2605. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3867" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2606. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3868" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2607. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; New Iberia, LA" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0344) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2608. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ashland, KY" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0450) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2609. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D and E Airspace; Wichita, KS" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0890) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2610. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lander, WY" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0390) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2611. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments Amendments No. 548" (RIN2120-AA63) (Docket No. 31273) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2612. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0403) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2613. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0320) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2614. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0672) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2615. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0641) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2616. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0656) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2617. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0327) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2618. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0023) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2619. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0268) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2620. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0057) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-134. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Lakewood, Ohio memorializing its support for the Solidarity Action Plan, passage of the Green New Deal Resolution, and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-135. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Narberth, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-136. A petition from a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorializing a resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the United States Congress to facilitate and ensure implementation of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2481. A bill to facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases through coordinated domestic and international efforts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KAIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2482. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to carry out the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled "Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2483. A bill to counter efforts by foreign governments to pursue, harass, or otherwise persecute individuals for political and other unlawful motives overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2484. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for operation of a Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY,

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2485. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from using Government funds to pay for expenses at lodging establishments that are owned by or employ certain public officials or their relatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. KAIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2486. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants for landlord-tenant mediation programs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2487. A bill to improve the effectiveness and efficiency and reduce the cost of the supply chain and inventory management of the Department of Defense by consolidating unnecessary and unneeded storage centers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 2488. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules that prohibit officers and directors of certain companies from trading securities in anticipation of a current report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2489. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2490. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent certain changes made by Public Law 115-97 to the child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2491. A bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2492. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. 2493. A bill to establish the Malign Foreign Influence Response Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 313. A resolution designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 314. A resolution honoring the centennial of the Aerospace Industries Association; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JONES:

S. Res. 315. A resolution memorializing the discovery of the Clotilda; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 279

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 279, a bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

S. 315

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to authorize cyber hunt and incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of