

Valley. Over the years, he served on numerous boards and committees, including the Yeager Airport Authority Board, Board of Trustees for the University of Charleston, Chairman Emeritus of the Inland Waterways Users Board, Trustee Emeritus of the West Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Director Emeritus of the Mariners' Museum, past Chairman of the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association, former Director of the Charleston Area Medical Center Foundation, One Valley Bancorp, the Western Pocahontas Corporation, Ohio Valley Improvement Association, and so many more.

In recent years, Charlie was honored as a Distinguished West Virginian by the Governor, entered into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels by the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, inducted into the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics Business Hall of Fame, and recognized as a West Virginia "Who's Who" by the State Journal.

Additionally, he received previous honors, such as the Charleston YMCA's Spirit of the Valley Award, induction into the Coal Mining Hall of Fame, Charleston Gazette-Mail's West Virginian of the Year, Seamen's Church Institute Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Rivers Hall of Fame Achievement Award, to name only a few.

Put simply, Charlie was a regular Renaissance man. What stands out about Charlie's character was he that he was beloved by those who worked with him and knew him. He was compassionate and considerate and was also a strong leader and motivator with an unparalleled work ethic. It was an honor to call him a friend.

Once again, Gayle and I send our deepest condolences to his children, Laura Jones Pray, C. Tandy Jones, and Jennifer Jones. I am honored to join each of you in remembering Charlie's legacy, as well as the unwavering love he had for his loved ones, community, and, most importantly, our home State.

I know he and Mary Ellen and their son Nelson are looking down on each of them fondly today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the crisis in Venezuela, a defining human rights issue of our time. Nicolas Maduro is starving his own people, and innocent children are dying. What is happening in Venezuela is pure genocide. With every day that passes, the situation in Venezuela grows more dire.

I will not stand by and let Maduro continue terrorizing his people. I will not let Democrats in Congress use the Venezuelan people as a political prop. I will not allow the inaction to continue.

Americans have always stood up for freedom, and today is no exception. That is why I am here again to ask unanimous consent to pass my amendment to H.R. 549, granting temporary protective status for Venezuelans fleeing Nicolas Maduro's oppressive regime. Even though Senate Democrats blocked the same proposal last month, I refuse to give up. I stand with the proud Venezuelans.

My proposal has the support of all Senate Republicans. I believe that the President will sign this into law. It is the only solution that stands a chance of becoming law. We have to act.

We also need to be responsible. The courts have, basically, made a temporary program permanent, which is not sustainable. Despite what some confused Democrats, including Speaker PELOSI may say, the "T" in TPS actually does mean "temporary."

In addition to protecting Venezuelan people right now, my amendment makes much needed reforms to our TPS program and returns the program to its intended purpose. We want those seeking refuge from war and oppressive regimes to have a safe haven in our country, but we need a system that works and is truly temporary. We need to act now to save the Venezuelan people.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in Spanish.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. (English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

We need TPS now.

I stand with the people of Venezuela, and I will continue to fight for freedom and democracy in Latin America.

It is time for Maduro and his thugs to leave power.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 549

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 549. I ask unanimous consent that my amendment at the desk be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I share the concerns expressed by my colleague, the Senator from Florida, about the situation in Venezuela.

I have met with many of my constituents of Venezuelan heritage and have discussed with them the crises that their relatives back in Venezuela face every day—shortages of food, water, medicine, and state-sponsored violence, which has caused 4.3 million people to flee the country.

That is exactly why I joined many of my colleagues in supporting legislation from many months ago of granting temporary protected status to people who flee the horror in Venezuela. Of course, the House of Representatives passed legislation to do exactly that. I have a copy of H.R. 549 in my hand, and it is sitting here in the U.S. Senate.

I say to my colleague, the Senator from Florida, that I am happy to sit down with him and discuss how we can revise and reform the entire TPS system in our going forward. In fact, I introduced legislation back in March of this year, S. 879, to extend temporary protected status to all of the people who are, right now, in great fear of being deported from the United States when their protected statuses expire. Yet I recognize there may be reforms we can make to the overall system.

I suggest that a bill that is just focused on TPS to Venezuela is not the place to try to reform the entire TPS system, about which I am more than happy to have a discussion. As the Senator knows, we have people with TPS status from many countries, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, and a number of African countries. To try to overhaul the entire system in one piece of legislation by passing something right now for Venezuela doesn't make a lot of sense, which is why I support what the House did, for it immediately addresses the situation in Venezuela with our current TPS system.

Let's not try to rewrite the whole TPS set of rules now. Let's address the emergency situation right now. The Senate can do that by passing the House bill, which, in a moment, I will ask to take up.

I object to the Senator's request to pass this version, which also tries to overhaul the entire TPS system.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 549. I ask unanimous consent that my amendment at the desk be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my unanimous consent request.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 549

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 549

and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I appreciate the opportunity to work with my colleague from Maryland, and I look forward to working with him again in the future. It would be great if we could work together to try to figure out how to provide temporary protected status for Venezuelans and also to fix the program so it continues to work not just for Venezuelans but for people all over the world.

The Democrats know their proposal cannot become law. It lacks support in the Senate, which is why I proposed an amendment that has support and that can actually become law immediately.

My amendment grants TPS to Venezuelans for 18 months. It requires congressional approval for TPS extensions of no more than 18 months at a time. My amendment limits the ability of illegal aliens who have no connection to the TPS designation to benefit from TPS. It ensures that human rights violators who are identified under the Magnitsky Act are not eligible for TPS status. It includes provisions to distinguish that TPS status does not count as an admission for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Under my amendment, TPS recipients cannot return to the TPS country during the period of designation. Finally, the amendment requires that current TPS designations come up for congressional review 2 years after the enactment of this amendment.

My amendment is the only way to help the Venezuelan people. It is the only proposal that can become law. There is no path forward for the Democrats' plan, and, unfortunately, they know it.

It is clear, now more than ever, that, unfortunately, the Democrats don't want to get anything done on this issue. That is why they are standing in our way. All Republican Senators have signed off on this. Unfortunately, the Democrats have decided to use the Venezuelan community as a political prop instead of working with us to find a solution.

We cannot lose sight of the fact that Nicolas Maduro is killing his citizens. It is a genocide. Who will we be if we turn our backs on a genocide right here in our hemisphere? We cannot. We must help Venezuelan families.

It is also time to reform TPS in this country. Temporary protected status was never meant to be endless. It was meant to help families in need. So let's get the program to work.

I look forward to working with my colleague from Maryland and with all of my colleagues to help the families in

Venezuela and to finally create a long-term solution to TPS. I will not rest until we do.

My colleague Senator RAND PAUL asked that I object to the Senate Democrats' proposal. On behalf of Senator PAUL, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3055

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to offer the following amendments: No. 961, No. 1019, and No. 1067. I further ask unanimous consent that no second-degree amendments be in order to these amendments prior to the votes and that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 28, the Senate vote in relation to these amendments in the order listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to take the next 15 or 20 minutes today to talk about the ongoing situation in Syria and the region surrounding that country.

It is a part of the world that some folks might not be all that familiar with, so let's take a look at the area that I will be discussing today: Syria, the Mediterranean, with Greece up here.

Just north of Syria, we have Turkey. To the southeast of Syria, we have Iraq. Further to the east of Iraq, we have Iran. To the south-southwest of Syria, we have Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. South of Jordan is Saudi Arabia. Over here we have Egypt, the Red Sea, and Georgia—not the State, the country. That gives us just a little bit of the lay of the land. The focus of my remarks today will be on Syria.

Three years and 4 months ago this week, I stood here on the Senate floor

in front of a map of Syria and spoke of the progress that was about to be made in that country in the battle to degrade and destroy ISIS.

We are going to look at another map. It is pretty much the same area, blown up—Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel. The area here in what I call a peach color is where ISIS was running the show or had undue influence.

At this particular point in time, ISIS had been making undeniable progress in building what they called their caliphate, their country, their capital. Again, this is the area they covered at the height of their influence.

ISIS at that time had recruited more manpower than any terrorist group in the world and was also the richest terrorist group in the world. They would literally go into an area of the town or country and loot the banks, empty the vaults, take the cash, take the money, and run.

Through their dominant social media presence, ISIS was attracting some 2,000 foreign fighters per month. That included 10 Americans per month, which would mean over 100 Americans per year on an annual basis. ISIS controlled most of northern Syria, including Raqqa, which it claimed as its capital, and the strategic city of Manbij, which is close by.

ISIS was able to project an image of strength to the world, reeling in potential recruits by touting their victories in the region. You know how everybody wants to be the winner in football, and you see a lot of people wearing Boston Patriots clothing. We will probably see a lot more Nats fans in the months to come and Houston Astros fans as well. But ISIS was projecting an image of strength to the world, and they were reeling in potential recruits by touting their victories in the region and their growing territory.

Three years and four months ago, when I stood here on the Senate floor, progress was actually being made in reversing ISIS's growth. U.S. and Kurdish forces had recaptured Manbij, sending ISIS recruitment tumbling, from about 2,000 fighters a month down to 200. I will say that again. They were recruiting 2,000 a month, and they were down to about 200.

We had found where they kept a lot of their money, not all of it, but we destroyed about one-third of it. ISIS had previously held the strategically important Sunni Triangle in nearby Iraq. But when I spoke on the floor, right here, 3 years ago, in 2016, Iraqi forces recaptured the cities of Tikrit, Fallujah, and Ramadi, and we were poised to make additional gains in the months that followed in the battle against ISIS.

Just over a year later, in 2017, Raqqa was recaptured from ISIS control. Around that time, and in the months that followed, ISIS's sphere of influence undoubtedly diminished by about two-thirds.

I referred to that map already, but we will look at it again. This is where