

facility after this great, fallen, Montana hero. Travis and I attended the same high school in Bozeman.

I make it my top priority to hear from all of our veterans across all corners of our State and to learn about the issues they face, such as access to rural healthcare, or to ensure they receive the recognition they deserve. In fact, just last month, I was in Great Falls to help honor veteran Alfred E. Shryer with the Bronze Star Medal for his service in Vietnam. It was recognition that was long overdue—nearly 50 years in the making.

After all our veterans and their families have given to our Nation, it is due time that our country gives them the care, the treatment, and the recognition they have earned. That is why I am taking action. I have introduced a number of bipartisan solutions to help resolve issues that plague our vets, like my bipartisan bill to protect veterans' pensions from scam artists. I have also led a bipartisan effort to ensure that our Blue Water veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange while they served in Vietnam receive the healthcare they deserve. Those who risk it all—those who put their lives on the line in defense of our freedom—deserve the utmost honor, thanks, and care.

To all of our veterans, thank you for your service. Our country is freer and our country is safer because of you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, thank you to my colleagues from West Virginia, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and now the great State of Montana.

The distinguished Senator from Montana is sitting at the desk that was occupied by Conrad Burns, a Senator from Montana who was a private in the U.S. Marine Corps.

I thank the Senator from Montana for his remarks and for his service in this body.

I rise today to speak in support of our Nation's veterans, Veterans Day, which is coming up on Monday, and the 244th—244th—birthday Sunday of our Nation's force in readiness, the U.S. Marine Corps.

I am a marine—the senior marine in the Congress—and my dad was a marine serving in Guam, Kenya, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima. Tough duty.

On this holiday, we remember those who have sacrificed for our freedoms, especially the more than 1 million who have given their lives for our country. Every American should remember these heroes.

As a nation, we are also home to more than 18 million living heroes who have served with distinction in our armed services.

On this Veterans Day, I would especially like to single out a great veteran who has also served with honor and respect in this body—Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON.

JOHN HARDY ISAKSON, born December 28, 1944, just 3 short years after the at-

tack on Pearl Harbor, began his service to our country in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972, leaving the service at the rank of staff sergeant.

He then continued to serve as a member in both the Georgia State Senate and House, as well as the U.S. House of Representatives, before his fellow Georgians sent him to the U.S. Senate.

In 2005, he came back full circle to his military roots, joining the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in 2015, he took over the chairmanship.

Let the record reflect that, as chairman, he has worked tirelessly—to reform veterans' healthcare and benefits, as well as to bring oversight and accountability to the Department.

Under his leadership, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs has passed 57 pieces of legislation that were signed into law—57. You heard that correctly; 57 bills became law.

I think I have had the gavel in four different committees—57? I don't think I have gotten to that yet.

Let me just go through some of the most significant reforms that JOHNNY ISAKSON steered through the Senate that became law: the VA MISSION Act, which puts veterans in charge of their own healthcare; the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which holds the VA accountable to the veterans it serves; the Harvey W. Colmery—happens to be a Kansan—Veterans Educational Assistance Act, which improves veterans' GI bill benefits; the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, which modernizes the VA's appeal process; and one of the most important, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which helps get mental health services to our warfighters who need them the most.

This is only a small portion of his long list of accomplishments, and his committee is not resting on their laurels. As of this morning, they have held 110 hearings, conducted more than 80 oversight visits, and have confirmed 23 Presidential nominations.

In my experience as chairman of a Senate committee—I think three of them, maybe four—you simply can't get this type of work done without help from those across the aisle.

This is just another example of who JOHNNY is as a person and a legislator. He doesn't make promises he can't keep, and he is willing to put partisanship aside in order to get the absolute best care for our Nation's men and women who have served.

In this body, there are those who choose ideology—I understand that—and partisan issues—I understand that as well. But JOHNNY ISAKSON is someone who works with his colleagues to pass legislation benefiting not only our Nation's veterans but every American's pocketbook and daily life.

I have a lot of personal memories when JOHNNY would rope me in to com-

ing to a meeting, a bipartisan meeting, to try to get what we thought was a very important bill done. Sometimes I had some concerns about joining those outfits that he seemed to put together when nobody else could, but I learned pretty quickly that I better go, first, to find out what was going on and then, second, to watch this man carefully craft a bipartisan agreement, working with colleagues, listening to them. When JOHNNY spoke, people usually got to the edge of their chairs and listened. That is how he got it done.

On behalf of the more than 18 million veterans and their families this Veterans Day, we celebrate his leadership and sense of duty to country.

JOHNNY—JOHNNY ISAKSON—thank you for your service. Senators eventually come and go. I do not think we will see the likeness of Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON for years to come.

Semper fi, my dear friend. I love you. We love you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I get into the substance of my remarks on a very serious subject, I want to thank my dear friend from Kansas for his nice words about JOHNNY ISAKSON.

There is no word short of "beloved" that you would affix before JOHNNY ISAKSON's name in terms of this Chamber, and I think that would probably be true for every single Member—certainly the Senator from Kansas and certainly the Senator from New York.

On July 30, 1778, the Continental Congress passed unanimously the following resolution: "Resolved, that it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States . . . to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states."

That was in the Continental Congress before our Nation was even formed—a duty of citizens to protect the American people from those in government who might conduct misconduct, fraud, or misdemeanors.

From the earliest days of our Republic, our government has acknowledged the vital role that whistleblowers play in ensuring good governance and rooting out corruption, malfeasance, and self-dealing.

Two nights ago, appallingly, at a political rally, President Trump and a Member of this Chamber, the junior Senator from Kentucky, publicly and explicitly urged the press to disclose the identity of the Federal whistleblower whose complaint triggered an impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives.

A few days later, the same junior Senator threatened to reveal the identity of the whistleblower himself.

I cannot stress enough how wrong and dangerous—dangerous—these efforts are.

The United States is a nation of laws. Whistleblower laws have existed since the founding of our Republic to protect patriotic Americans who come forward and stand up for our Constitution. We don't get to determine when these laws apply and when they don't. We don't get to decide if the law applies whether you like what the whistleblower said or whether you don't. These are laws. No person—no person—is above the law.

This whistleblower, whose complaint was deemed credible and urgent by a Trump appointee, is protected by these statutes. There is no legal doubt about that. Every single Member of this body—every single one—should stand up and say that it is wrong to disclose his or her identity. That is what my colleague Senator HIRONO will ask us to do in a moment.

Before she does, I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have spoken up in defense of whistleblower protections. Some of my Republican colleagues have spent their careers defending whistleblowers. We need them today. We need these Republican colleagues, who should be here standing up for the protection of whistleblowers.

The threats we have seen over the last few days are so egregious—so egregious—that they demand bipartisan outrage from one end of this Chamber to the other, whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Independent, liberal, moderate, or conservative.

What is happening here is another erosion of the values of this Republic for political expediency. Exposing the whistleblower's identity would endanger their health and safety and that of their families. It would also be a chilling message to future patriots that they do their duty to report wrongdoing at the risk of exposure, retaliation, and retribution.

Why don't we see a single other Republican stand up in favor of this today? We should.

Let's send a message today that the Senate reaffirms our Nation's longstanding tradition of defending whistleblowers. I urge every single Member of the Senate to support it, and I recognize somebody who has been valiant in this fight to protect the duty enshrined by the Continental Congress and the Constitution, my good friend, the Senator from Hawaii.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 408

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, if you work for the Federal Government, you work for the people. You have a duty by law to come forward to report misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes going on in government.

This duty has been on the books since 1778. Why? Because people working in government are in a pretty good position to see when something is not right in their workplace.

We want a government that is doing right by us.

It is not easy for whistleblowers to come forward to report wrongdoing in

government. That is why we have laws that protect a whistleblower from intimidation, discrimination, and retaliation, and laws that protect their identity.

On August 12, a whistleblower—and we don't know whether this was a man or a woman, so for ease of reference, I will refer to the whistleblower as “she”—came forward, as the law required, to file a complaint with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

The complaint alleged that the President was “using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election.”

The inspector general, also as required, determined that the complaint was credible and involved an urgent concern.

The House, on learning of the whistleblower's complaint, began to ask questions. What did the House investigation uncover? That the whistleblower's complaint was right.

Bill Taylor, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine; Tim Morrison, the top Russia and Eastern Europe expert on the National Security Council; and others have corroborated the whistleblower's complaint about the President.

Just yesterday, the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, confirmed that security assistance for Ukraine was dependent on the Ukrainian Government's launching an investigation into the President's political opponents.

Let's face it. What Donald Trump did was wrong. It is wrong for the President of the United States to shake down the Ukrainian President to get dirt on his political rivals in return for almost \$400 million in U.S. military aid to help Ukraine fight Russia. Faced with growing evidence of Donald Trump's wrongdoing, what happens? What happens is a President and his minions attack the whistleblower, suggesting that she was spying and guilty of treason.

Donald Trump has threatened the whistleblower with “Big Consequences”—capital B, capital C—and put her safety at risk with comments such as: “I do not know why a person that defrauds the American public should be protected.” Guess what, he wasn't talking about himself.

Donald Trump's devoted rightwing allies have been quick to echo and amplify the President's attacks. The whistleblower's own attorney warned Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire that the President's threats are compromising her personal safety. Just last Sunday, Donald Trump said: “There have been stories written about a certain individual, a male, and they say he's the whistleblower . . . if it's him, you guys ought to release the information.”

House Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY also insisted that the whistleblower “should come before the committee . . . he needs to answer the questions.” While speaking at a Trump

campaign rally, my colleague from Kentucky who has joined me on the floor today, demanded that the media print the name of the whistleblower. Representative JIM JORDAN, one of Donald Trump's fiercest allies, dismissed the whistleblower as biased and called for her identity to be made public.

With his attacks on the whistleblower, Donald Trump has made clear that he will use the full power of his office to bully, intimidate, and threaten anyone who dares to stand up to him or to speak out against him.

Can you imagine what a young career foreign service officer at the State Department might do after seeing the President tell the world that whistleblowers are spies who defraud our government? Do you think that person would risk destroying their career and suffer the wrath of Donald Trump and his fiercest allies and supporters in reporting the President's misconduct?

How about a career employee at the Department of Defense who sees that military aid is being held up to pressure a foreign government to help the President of the United States win reelection? Do you think that Defense Department employee would risk being accused of betraying our country and acting as a spy?

Let's be clear here: The real purpose of these attacks is to scare anyone else who may be thinking of coming forward to stay silent. We see the President, time and time again, through tweets, in interviews, at his rallies, openly attacking anyone who questions or disagrees with him. The chilling effect of what the President is doing cannot be overstated. It totally undercuts our whistleblower laws. These are not normal times. In normal times, we would be protecting whistleblowers. That is what this resolution does.

The resolution I am presenting affirms that if anyone expects public servants to report misconduct, we have a corresponding duty to protect their identity and safeguard them from retaliation, from threats. The whistleblower has done her duty. Now, we need to do ours.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 408 introduced earlier today; that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2798

Mr. President, I support whistleblowers, and I do think they have a role to play in keeping government accountable. They should not lose their jobs or be prosecuted because of their willingness to speak, but what we have seen over the last few years is that we have a system that we should continue to refine.