

Vietnam war that it was wrong to criticize or focus our anger on our soldiers, even if we disagreed with the war they were deployed to undertake and fight.

I hope we will take that same approach with respect to our civil servants; that we will understand and honor their service. I hope we will all then jointly proclaim that alongside the greatest military in the world, we have the greatest civil service and the greatest Foreign Service the world has ever seen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FIRST STEP ACT ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here today to commemorate and celebrate the 1-year anniversary of a groundbreaking achievement. On December 18, 2018, the Senate passed the FIRST STEP Act. Three days later, President Trump signed this far-reaching legislation into law. The FIRST STEP Act is the most significant criminal justice reform law in a generation.

I am proud of the work we accomplished 1 year ago on the Senate floor by voting it out of this Chamber with a rollcall vote of 87 to 12. This historic vote means a lot to this Senator, who then was chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In fact, in one of the conference rooms in my office in Washington, I have the official tally sheet from this bill's vote framed and hung on a wall. Now Iowans, advocates, and those who visit my office can see this piece of history.

Our criminal justice system is based on the rule of law. That means when you commit a crime, you should be punished. But the punishment should fit the crime. If the penalty is too harsh, it doesn't do any more to deter criminal activity, and it is a bad value for our taxpayers when you keep people in prison if it doesn't do any good to have them there.

Overly harsh penalties can also make it harder for prisoners who are trying to change their lives to turn over a new leaf. It is worth noting that almost all criminals are eventually released from prison.

Our criminal justice system must do much more than punish and deter. It should rehabilitate and prepare prisoners to reenter society. That is exactly what the FIRST STEP Act does. It gives nonviolent prisoners an incentive to participate in programs in prison, such as job training, drug treatment programs, and counseling, which have been shown to reduce recidivism.

The FIRST STEP Act also makes sentencing more fair. It leaves tough penalties in place for the worst criminals, but it reduces mandatory minimum sentences, giving judges the ability to tailor punishment to fit the crime.

Today marks a very happy occasion and a time of reflection. However, we must remain focused on the future and

implementation of that law. With vigilant and consistent oversight into the implementation of the FIRST STEP Act, we can ensure these goals of reducing recidivism and improving our criminal justice system are met.

I have had the opportunity to meet with dozens of former prisoners who have been released because of the reforms in the FIRST STEP Act, and I also had a chance to meet with some of the families. These former prisoners are inspiring. They are finding jobs. They are taking care of their families. They are paying their taxes and contributing to their communities. They have told me that the FIRST STEP Act gave them hope. It reminded them that the rest of the country had not forgotten about them but wanted them to succeed.

The FIRST STEP Act gives former prisoners a better chance at changing their lives. Every day, there are more success stories. No doubt, there will be some prisoners who don't learn a lesson and return to a life of crime, but the reforms we put into place have been shown at the State level to reduce crime by reducing recidivism. It is the right thing to do for people in the criminal justice system, but it is a good value for the taxpayers, as well, because it costs tens of thousands of dollars to keep people in prisons.

As we commemorate the FIRST STEP Act, it is important to acknowledge that this was a bipartisan effort. A lot of people didn't think it was even possible, but we did it by working together and finding a way to work out a reasonable compromise.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge Senator DURBIN. I guess you would call the two of us partners in crime. There is no better advocate for criminal justice reform than Senator DURBIN, and this bill would never have passed without his hard work and willingness to forge this bipartisan compromise.

I point especially to Senator LEE because he knows the criminal justice code inside out, and when we needed people to tell us what we could or could not do, what was reasonable, he had an answer. So I want to thank Senator LEE.

I also thank Senators CORNYN, SCOTT, WHITEHOUSE, BOOKER, and LEAHY, among others.

I also want to recognize President Trump and give a sincere thank-you to him and his team, particularly Jared Kushner, for the support and leadership in this space.

Today, December 18, will always be an important day for me as a legislator. I look forward to making sure that this law is implemented successfully and to finding additional ways to improve our criminal justice system.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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 result was announced—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 402 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—38

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Harris	Klobuchar	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the McFarland nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made

and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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 senior assistant 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 Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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 Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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 (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—76 yeas, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 403 Ex.]

YEAS—76

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

Shelby	Thune	Wicker
Sinema	Tillis	Young
Sullivan	Toomey	
Tester	Warner	

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Hirono	Smith
Bennet	Markey	Stabenow
Brown	Merkeley	Udall
Cantwell	Murray	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Schatz	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Schumer	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Harris	Klobuchar	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding provisions of rule XXII, at 4 p.m. today, the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture filed on Monday's session of the Senate in the order filed. I further ask that if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 465 and the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019, HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE NAVY WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ATTACK, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY THE ATTACK

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Today we come together to honor the courage of our brave men and women in uniform—our heroes—and remember the victims of the tragic terrorist attack that took place at Naval Air Station Pensacola on the morning of Friday, December 6.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Senators RUBIO, PERDUE, ISAKSON, SHELBY, and JONES, for standing with me today as we honor the sacrifice and memory of the three victims and their families.

Amn Mohammed Sameh Haitham, known to friends and family as "Mo," was just 19 years old from St. Petersburg, FL. He was a great athlete who loved to make others laugh.

ENS Joshua Kaleb Watson of Alabama was a 23-year-old natural born leader and selfless volunteer who had lifted others up. Joshua died a hero after giving first responders information on the shooter's location while he was mortally wounded.

Amn Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond, GA, was just 21 years old, with a contagious smile. His dream was to serve our country.

Our sailors and law enforcement officials showed heroism and bravery in the face of evil as they ran toward the shooter that day, saving lives. To our first responders who came to the swift aid of those in need, I would like to thank each one of them.

Today, the State of Florida stands united around the community of Pensacola and the families of victims as we pray for healing. I join my colleagues as we do everything we can to prevent future terrorist attacks.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 457, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 457) condemning the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola on Friday, December 6, 2019, honoring the members of the Navy who lost their lives in the attack, and expressing support and prayers for all individuals affected by the attack.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 457) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I yield the floor to Senator RUBIO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague Senator SCOTT for offering this and all of our colleagues and, of course, all of the Senators who voted for it unanimously.

My colleague from Florida has already mentioned the three names of those in the service of our country who lost their lives in Pensacola. I will talk about them more in a moment.

I do want to say a couple of things. First, Pensacola really is one of the hidden gems of the State that Senator SCOTT and I represent. To understand Pensacola, you must understand that it is not just a city in which a naval facility is located. The Navy is very