

since he started working serving our veterans at the Marion VA facility. He has been approved for a green card but will have to wait decades—decades—because of the backlog of people just like him, waiting for their green cards.

In the meantime, Dr. Alur's oldest daughter would age out—she is 12 now—but she would age out and be forced to leave the country before he is legally entitled to become a citizen of this country. Think of that heart-breaking situation, breaking up this man's family because he has been approved for a visa but has to wait to make sure he meets the quota in each year, and he will end up waiting for decades.

In the midst of this pandemic, Dr. Alur's immigration status puts him at a great risk. If, God forbid—God forbid—he contracts COVID-19 and becomes disabled or dies, his family would lose their immigration status and be forced to leave the United States. Tell me that is fair, that this man who is serving our veterans and has waited patiently to become a citizen of United States and be part of our future, should he get sick or die, his family would be deported.

Here is what he said to me about this:

The pandemic shook our family. Being a temporary worker on a visa never stared us in the face more. This lack of protection is every frontline immigrant doctor's nightmare.

Dr. Alur's temporary immigration status also prevents him from working part-time in a COVID-19 hotspot like Chicago. Here is what he said:

It is depressing to watch the medical system, stretched while the pandemic takes its toll, and not be able to help or participate. It is like a soldier sitting out a battle, player sitting out a game, fireman sitting out a house fire.

His family's plight led Dr. Alur to start Physicians for American Health Care Access, a nonprofit organization to advocate for doctors serving underserved communities who are stuck in this green card backlog.

I can tell you, in southern Illinois, we are desperate for good doctors. We need them not just at Marion VA, but we need more specialists around the entire region. This is a rural area of our State, small-town area, and they need these specialists more than ever.

How we can take a good man like this, who is willing to serve our veterans and do more in this COVID-19 epidemic, and tell him he is not welcome to be a citizen of this country, I just do not understand.

When I heard Dr. Alur's story, it inspired me to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to introduce this law that I mentioned, the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act. Under our bill, Dr. Alur and thousands like him could receive their green cards. They and their families would get the permanent immigration status that they deserve and be able to use their skills to serve in the frontlines of the pandemic if they are needed—and they are.

I hope that, even in these divided times, we can come together in Congress to quickly aid these immigrant healthcare heroes.

REMEMBERING GREG ZANIS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in this season of great mourning, last Monday, America lost a man who tried for years—during some of our darkest moments—to comfort our grief-stricken Nation.

His name was Greg Zanis, but he was known as “The Cross Man.” One month ago, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Last Friday, Mr. Zanis, his wife Sue, and their grown children watched from inside the Zanis family home in Aurora, IL, as a parade of neighbors drove past to show their love and respect for Greg.

This caravan of caring stretched for a mile and included more than 320 cars, trucks, SUVs, and motorcycles. It was a fitting tribute to a quiet man whose compassion and sacrifice helped ease the grief of countless Americans over the last 25 years.

You may never have heard his name before, but chances are you may have seen his work. After the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 and nearly every mass shooting and natural disaster since then, Greg Zanis crafted wooden memorials to honor the fallen. Over nearly 20 years, he made and personally delivered some 27,000 handmade memorials to communities across America. Most were crosses, but he also crafted wooden Stars of David and crescent moons to honor the fallen.

He drove to Sandy Hook, CT, after 26 children and educators were murdered in that grade school. He drove to Florida to honor the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting and returned a heartbreaking short time later after the Parkland High School mass shooting. He drove to Las Vegas after 58 people were killed at a music festival; to the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, after 26 worshippers were killed; to Pittsburgh, PA, to honor the 11 worshippers killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue.

Greg Zanis considered his work a ministry, and it cost him financially and emotionally. He was a master carpenter who gave up much of the work he did otherwise to make and deliver these memorials. When he heard of a mass shooting or a deadly natural disaster, he loaded up his truck with crosses and drove, sometimes leaving in the middle of the night so he could get there as quickly as possible. One friend said that Mr. Zanis often wasn't sure, when he left home, how he would get the gas money to get back to Aurora. Somehow, he always did.

He was in Aurora a little over a year ago, February 2019, when the epidemic of mass shootings came to his hometown. Five workers were killed, five police officers wounded at a mass shooting at a warehouse. The tragedy hit Mr. Zanis hard. As he told a re-

porter for the New York Times, he could drive away from all the other tragedies, but he said, “I'm not going to be able to get away from this one.”

His ministry didn't take him only to places of mass suffering and death; he also made crosses for individuals. He made 700 crosses carried down Michigan Avenue in Chicago to honor those who died in that great city in 1 year.

He made his first cross in 1996 to honor his father-in-law, who had been murdered in a shooting. He learned from that experience that transforming wood into symbols of faith helped to make grief more bearable. That is the gift that he tried to share with others.

The mass shooting at a Walmart in El Paso last September shook him deeply. Among the 22 killed and 23 wounded were little children shopping for school supplies with their parents. Between the heat of the south Texas sun and the enormity of their losses, Mr. Zanis struggled to make enough crosses. He decided, after that, that he had to retire from his ministry. He was 69 years old. A few months later, his cancer was diagnosed.

In this time, when so many of the usual customs of grieving must be suspended, may we all find some consolation and inspiration in the extraordinary, ordinary man who helped to ease the grief of so many.

I yield the floor.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Wednesday, May 13, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6172 under the order of March 16. I further ask that at 12 noon, the Senate vote in relation to the McConnell side-by-side amendment to the Daines amendment, if offered. I further ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the McConnell amendment, the Senate vote in relation to the Daines amendment.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 13; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following

leader remarks, the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 6172 under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 12, 2020:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

TROY D. EDGAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

BRIAN D. MONTGOMERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.