

Sgt. Curry's incessant optimism was the hallmark of his personality and often provided respite for others during times of stress. His honesty, lightheartedness, and wit will always be remembered by his brothers in arms.

To those who are not here today because they made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, we humbly say thank you. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of every American.

God bless America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank Senator YOUNG and Senator COLLINS, who have just preceded me and set the tone, as only they can do, with regard to honoring Memorial Day.

It is truly an honor to stand on the floor of the Senate and speak about so many who have served and defended our Nation. As the son of a World War II veteran—a marine veteran, I might add—and a veteran myself, also a marine, it is a privilege to represent our men and women in uniform in the U.S. Senate and to be able to ensure they have all the tools they need to fulfill their missions, to ensure their families are supported here at home, and to ensure our veterans receive the care and services they deserve.

Just a word about my dad. He was 41 when the war started. He joined the Marines—he was in a non-combat role—at a recruiting station in Kansas City. They looked and looked and looked for a combat billet and finally found one that said that the top age was 39. They really needed people. He was 41. He lied about his age, and then went into that billet to see action in Guam, Okinawa, and, yes, Iwo Jima.

I went to Iwo Jima on the 15th anniversary—that was about 60 years ago. We now have the 75th. When standing on top of Mount Suribachi, you really stop and realize exactly the sacrifice my dad and others made. He survived those attacks, and thank you to President Truman for allowing my dad to get back.

Throughout our Nation's history, our service men and women have repeatedly answered the call of duty and stepped forward to defend the freedoms we hold dear. From the earliest days of struggle for our Republic to the current unprecedented threats from terrorism, to cyber attacks, to unpredictable regimes with missile capability to attack our shores, and, yes, to global pandemics, the principles set forth by our Founding Fathers have been defended by our brave men and women in uniform.

I stand here once again to commemorate those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Hopefully they will continue to be remembered by those of us who enjoy the freedoms for which they fought and died.

Memorial Day is the day when a grateful nation recognizes those who have given so much out of love for their country, their family, and their fellow citizens.

Remembering service and sacrifice does not happen just on Memorial Day. One of the greatest honors to me is meeting the veterans who visit Washington, DC, through the incredible efforts of the Honor Flight Network. Having the opportunity to visit with members of the "greatest generation" who make the journey to Washington—often with high school students who are learning firsthand about their service and that history—so they can see their memorial is a humbling and uplifting experience for me and for all of us. To watch these men and women share their stories, many for the first time, is incredibly moving.

When meeting these members of the "greatest generation," you understand how befitting that label is for these humble men and women who stood in the face of tyranny and triumph. We see this same courage and resolve demonstrated daily by the good men and women currently serving in our Armed Forces throughout the world. We see acts of uncommon valor and great sacrifice for a cause and a deep belief in something bigger than just one person.

We honor all the American men and women who have given their lives for their country since our Nation's founding. SUSAN COLLINS just referred to that in her very fine speech. We honor the more than 300,000 living veterans, from those folks to the "greatest generation," and we honor the families of those who are here and are serving.

Speaking of the "greatest generation," I have the honor of being the chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, the memorial which pays tribute to Kansas's favorite son Ike's leadership both as Supreme Allied Commander, where he saved Western democracy, and the 34th President of the United States, where he gave us 8 years of peace and prosperity. This memorial will serve as a symbol for all generations of the promise of America and what our values make possible here and around the world.

We were supposed to dedicate this memorial this month, but, like everything else, the pandemic put those plans on hold. When we dedicate the memorial in September, we hope to have many World War II veterans attending, including Kansas's other favorite son, Senator Bob Dole.

While our debt to these heroes can never be repaid, I know that my fellow Kansans agree that these liberators and defenders of democracy deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

I am going to quote from General Eisenhower when he was President and following that. "There is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence, and energy of her citizens cannot cure." I hope those words by Ike at that particular time can ring true in this body and more especially, those of us who are privileged to serve in this body.

There is another quote I will repeat from Winston Churchill, who said: "Kites rise highest against the wind,

not with it." We have seen a lot of talk about the pandemic, and those winds have been a bit partisan, to say the least. I would hope that we would stop for a moment and honor Memorial Day in the true way we should do that.

I would close by saying, in the words of Ronald Reagan:

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance. It must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.

I think President Reagan gives us a great deal of insight.

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

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

UNITED STATES PARK POLICE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today concerning the tragic death of a young Virginian, Bijan Ghaisar, who was shot and killed by two U.S. Park Police officers over 2 years ago.

While this tragic incident occurred, as I mentioned, more than 2 years ago, many questions remain unanswered regarding the circumstances of Bijan's death. Unfortunately, the Department of the Interior has failed to answer many of the basic questions that I have asked about the night of Bijan's death and subsequent actions the National Park Service has taken following the shooting.

In November of last year, I wrote the Department and requested information about the U.S. Park Police's use of force and vehicle pursuit policies, as well as information about the Park Service's response in the aftermath of Bijan's shooting. Unfortunately, there has been no response.

The Department found time to do some PR work. They provided copies of the updated use of force and vehicle pursuit policies to the Washington Post earlier this year, but I still have not received a response to my letter that was sent over 6 months ago.

To this point, the Department has failed to answer many basic questions about this incident—questions that I have asked, as well as my friend, the senior Senator from Wyoming. They are questions about the incident, such as these: Did the Department open an internal affairs inquiry into the incident to see if any violations of Park Police policy occurred? What is the timeline for such an investigation? Is the U.S. Park Police conducting a thorough after-action review of the incident? What is the status of the Park Police officers involved in the incident? Are they on administrative leave, desk duty, or are they back on patrol?

These are basic questions. If the Department of the Interior had any interest in transparency, they could answer them today. The Ghaisar family deserves answers about what happened to Bijan. The pain they have experienced over the last 2 years is immeasurable. As if the premature death of their son wasn't bad enough, they have waited 2 years for answers from a Federal Government that has failed completely to adequately respond to this tragedy.

I am not going to rest until the Ghaisar family has the answers they deserve about what happened to Bijan that night. If the Department wants to ignore these basic questions I have asked and if they want to disregard legitimate congressional oversight, then there will be consequences until their action changes.

In February, I voted against Katharine MacGregor's nomination to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. I said very clearly at that time that if the Department of the Interior continues to ignore my questions about the killing of Bijan Ghaisar, I would hold up future Interior nominees. For this reason, I am today placing a hold on the nomination of Lanny Erdos to serve as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement within the Department of the Interior.

If we don't get answers to legitimate questions that I and other Members of this body and Members of the House have raised about the shooting of Bijan Ghaisar, I am prepared to hold up even more nominees. This is not something I take lightly. Holding up nominees should always be a last resort. But I have been patient and Bijan's family has been patient, and still the Department of the Interior has been silent.

For Bijan's family, 2 years is too long to wait. They deserve answers about what happened the night their son was shot and killed. I urge the Department to swiftly provide substantive answers to my outstanding questions regarding the death of Bijan and the Department's response.

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

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

VOTE ON MANASCO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

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

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Baldwin	Fischer	Peters
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Reed
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hassan	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Capito	Hoeven	Rosen
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Carper	Inhofe	Sasse
Casey	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kaine	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cortez Masto	King	Sinema
Cotton	Lankford	Smith
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Loeffler	Tester
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Duckworth	McSally	Toomey
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Enzi	Murphy	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—21

Bennet	Harris	Schatz
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Booker	Hirono	Stabenow
Brown	Klobuchar	Udall
Cantwell	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Markey	Sanders
Burr	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Leahy	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Texas.

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the hallmark of American democracy, the single greatest feature that sets us apart from every other country in the world, is the peaceful transition of power that occurs every 4 or sometimes every 8 years on January 20. It is a legacy we inherited from our forefathers and one that generations of Americans have fought hard throughout our history to protect. It is a remarkable moment. The most powerful person in the world bows to the will of the people and sits only a few yards away as the next President takes the oath of office.

Think about the wars that have been fought throughout history over who

the next leader of a country would be. Yet, in America, dating back to 1797, when Washington willingly passed the torch to Adams, the peaceful transition of power has defined the American Presidency. But a growing body of evidence suggests that the January 20, 2017, inauguration of President Donald Trump was an exception to that hallowed tradition.

Since the FBI launched its Russia probe in July 2016, there has been no shortage of stories about what did or did not happen in the months leading up to that election. For the better part of 3 years, the speculation dominated headlines and news feeds, with even the smallest details consuming hours of airtime.

Beyond the Russian active measures campaign, which we know did happen, there was a lot of attention focused on the Trump campaign itself. Now, almost 4 years later, we know a lot about what happened and what didn't happen. For example, we know from the Mueller report that there was no crime of collusion or obstruction committed by the President or his campaign. But since the special counsel's report was completed more than a year ago, we have learned a lot more about the outsized role played by some very senior Obama administration officials in what can only be described as an insurgency campaign against the Trump Presidency.

To be blunt, these revelations have given the American people good reason to be concerned about the outgoing administration, which took aggressive, possibly unlawful steps to interfere with initially the Trump campaign and then to undermine the incoming Trump administration.

For starters, there was the Department of Justice inspector general report on the Crossfire Hurricane investigation, which was released in December of last year. The inspector general's findings provided evidence that the concerns were more than warranted.

Inspector General Horowitz detailed a series of errors and missteps made by the FBI throughout the investigation, including alarming abuse of the powers of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. This act confers extraordinary power on the FBI and the intelligence community.

In the FISA application for Carter Page, Inspector General Horowitz identified 7 errors in the initial application and 10 additional errors in 3 renewals. We are not talking about innocent typos or misspelled words. This was not just sloppiness. There were significant and material errors, plus the deliberate falsification of material information about Carter Page's past service to the U.S. Government, as well as the omission of important exculpatory information, which deceived and misled the FISA Court.

I would hope we could all agree that lying to a court is serious and completely unacceptable.