

decades, he climbed the ranks of elected officials in service to his community and the State of Iowa.

He started out as a county supervisor in Scott County, IA, and went on to represent his neighbors in Iowa Senate District 15. An active, grassroots leader in the Republican Party of Iowa, Roger served as a delegate to the national GOP convention of 1972 and 1980.

In 1968, he was elected as Iowa's 39th Lieutenant Governor, where he served with Governor Bob Ray for two terms. Until Iowa adopted reforms under a constitutional amendment in 1972, the office for Governor and Lieutenant Governor were on the ballot every 2 years in my home State.

In 1978, when I won reelection to Iowa's then Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, Roger Jepsen flipped Iowa's U.S. Senate seat. He defeated incumbent Senator Dick Clark. At the time, political observers gave Roger scant chance of a victory that year, but on election day, Roger Jepsen pulled off the upset, beating his opponent by more than 26,000 votes.

In that same election, Roger returned both houses of the State legislature to Republican control for what would be Governor Ray's final term in office. In the previous legislative session, Iowa expanded its historic "right to work" law. For decades, this instrumental policy has enhanced Iowa's ability to attract businesses, create jobs, and grow wages across the State.

It was under attack in the last election. Iowa voters responded by expanding the Republican majority at the Iowa State House under a Republican administration led by Governor Kim Reynolds.

During his 6 years here in the U.S. Senate, Roger Jepsen solidified his pro-life, pro-family credentials. He was a fiscal conservative. He flexed steadfast support for the military, and he worked to put money back in the taxpayers' pockets.

In 1981, he voted to end "bracket creep" by indexing for inflation across-the-board tax rate cuts.

An outspoken advocate for rural America, Roger Jepsen fought to boost the economic recovery across the farm belt. He championed farm exports, expanded lending and tax relief for farmers.

He was chairman of the Joint Economic Committee and served on the Senate Agriculture and Armed Services Committees.

After losing his bid for reelection in 1984, President Reagan nominated Roger Jepsen to serve as Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, where he served from the years 1985 to 1993.

Although he and his wife Dee retired to Florida, Scott County was what he considered his home. Roger and Dee devoted considerable time and effort to end religious persecution and promote religious liberty. Alongside Congressman Jack Kemp, they cofounded the

Christian Rescue Effort for the Emancipation of Dissidents, known as CREED, to promote religious freedom as a human freedom around the world.

Each time I return home by way of Cedar Falls, IA, I pass Jepsen Road. In fact, it intersects my street. Over the years, Roger's and my paths crossed many times in service to Iowans. Seeing that street sign reminds me that no dream is too big for an Iowa farm kid.

Roger and Dee celebrated 62 years of marriage in September. Together they raised 6 children.

Barbara and I extend our condolences to his family and loved ones. On behalf of the State of Iowa, we thank Roger for his service here on Earth as he is welcomed home into the hands of the Lord.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it is no secret that in parts of Texas and in cities across the country, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise. Dr. Angela Clendenin is an epidemiologist at Texas A&M University's School of Public Health, and she attributes this increase to what she calls pandemic fatigue.

After months of vigorous handwashing and mask wearing, it seems that people are becoming less and less vigilant. She said, if we continue in the behaviors that we are behaving in right now without regulatory intervention, we are going to continue in the direction we are headed. I guess that is one way of saying if we don't shape up, the present spread of the virus will continue with, perhaps, in some instances, dangerous, even fatal, consequences.

That is a path we should not head down and one that will put an even greater strain on our healthcare workers. I guess, as I think about it, there are two ways to approach this pandemic. One is to leave it to government to tell us what we can and cannot do, to engage in more and more lockdowns and deprivation of our individual liberty or we can take personal responsibility. Speaking for myself, and I hope others, I hope the personal responsibility route is the one we will take.

From staffing shortages due to the coronavirus exposure to short supplies of personal protective equipment, to a lack of critical equipment like ventilators, our frontline healthcare workers have carried on this fight in the face of tremendous challenges. Now, with cases climbing in parts of my State and around the country, these heroes are in dire need of another line of defense.

The public—meaning Congress—on their behalf has the power to provide

that help. Through the same simple steps we heard about since the beginning of the pandemic, we can stop or at least dramatically slow the transmission of COVID-19.

Again, it gets back to the basics we have all been taught and I think more or less most of us have been employing: washing your hands, wearing a mask, practice social distancing, and don't let the pandemic fatigue win.

We need to all remain vigilant and committed to these basic practices until the experts tell us that COVID-19 is no longer a threat—likely, a point after which the vaccine has been widely deployed. None of us knows exactly when that might happen, but we have been getting some great news this last week or so about scientific developments that have been funded by the efforts that we in Congress have taken together on a bipartisan basis.

On Friday, in my State, the Governor announced the Department of Health and Human Services will distribute a new COVID-19 therapy to hospitals across the State as early as this week. The antibody treatment is produced by Eli Lilly and will be critical in reducing hospitalizations. It is meant for those who are known to be at a higher risk of developing severe symptoms, like the elderly or those with underlying chronic illness. For those who are diagnosed with COVID-19, this drug may be effective in preventing the onset of severe symptoms. The antibody treatment received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration last week, and I am hopeful it will help stop or at least slow dramatically the alarming rise in hospitalizations that we have seen across parts of my State.

So far, about 80,000 doses are ready for distribution nationwide, and we should have that up to a million doses a day by the end of the year. While the quantity is limited at this point, every single dose could mean a life saved. This alone is cause for hope.

But the good news doesn't stop there. Last week, Pfizer announced its COVID-19 vaccine has been more than 90 percent effective in clinical trials. Just this morning, Moderna announced its vaccine candidate is nearly 95 percent effective—just incredible results. This is exactly why we invested billions of dollars in developing these life-saving drugs earlier this year. The funding that we have appropriated has supported not only research and development but manufacturing of vaccines and therapeutics. We wanted to be sure that distribution could begin as soon as these drugs were approved as safe and effective, and that is exactly the direction we are headed in.

We are on track to have tens of millions of doses of vaccine available by the end of the year, likely from at least two different drug makers. This historic investment has led to historic progress.

I could not be more proud of the men and women who have made this possible. I am incredibly grateful to the

healthcare workers who are continuing to fight this serious infection on the frontlines.

I want to thank the researchers and scientists and thousands of volunteers who are supporting the development of vaccines and therapeutics. Beyond the physical toll this virus has taken, it is also having a profound impact on this country's mental health. This pandemic has brought on a range of new stressors, including isolation, financial struggles, health anxiety, and the stress of teaching children from home.

In a Kaiser Family Foundation poll in March, roughly, one-third of adults reported that their mental health was negatively affected by pandemic-related stresses. By July, that number has risen to more than half of the adults in the United States.

As we continue to discuss what future coronavirus legislation will look like, we should not—we must not—ignore the mental health impact.

I have spoken at length about the need to support community mental health centers and community behavioral health organizations, which are vital mental health providers across much of my State and across the Nation. These providers are a critical source of care and support for those who battle mental health and substance abuse disorders, and the need for their services has only risen during the pandemic.

The one group that is too often ignored in conversations about mental health care is made up of those transitioning from the criminal justice system as well. More than half of those in the criminal justice system have experienced a mental health issue, and our criminal justice system is ill-suited to provide the sort of treatment and support they need. Yet, even when these individuals do receive treatment while they are incarcerated, they are rarely given the tools they need to succeed upon their release. Approximately 80 percent of these people are uninsured after being released, making it nearly impossible for them to continue their mental health treatment.

Earlier this year, I and Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut introduced the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act to support those who have become part of the criminal justice system and provide a stable source of treatment for them after they leave incarceration.

Most prisoners who receive treatment for a mental health or substance abuse disorder are released without their having plans to keep up with their regimes. This leads to higher recidivism rates, which could be avoided. It also means that law enforcement is too often left to be the first responder to a mental health crisis, which can escalate those scenarios and put both the officers and the individuals at risk.

Our bill creates grants to connect law enforcement officials to State, Federal, and local resources to help individuals who are either engaged in the

criminal justice system or who are being released from prison get access to the support they need. These grants connect those services to make sure that people who are suffering acute episodes can access treatment without there being the risk of unnecessary incarceration. Many times, these people need help. They don't need to go back to jail. It has the ability to strengthen our community-based crisis response, reduce suicides during incarceration, and close the revolving door that leads people back to prison.

I hope the Senate can pass this legislation soon and that our colleagues in the House will follow suit. With the ongoing mental health challenges that have been brought on by COVID-19, there could not be a more critical time to strengthen our Nation's mental health resources.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

##### GREG LEMON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3589 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3589) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 3589) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

##### RODCHENKOV ANTI-DOPING ACT OF 2019

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 509, H.R. 835.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 835) to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 835) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

##### NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4104, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4104) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 4104) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

##### NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1830.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1830) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Schumer amendment be