

from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Jones	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Cardin	Loeffler	Rounds
Harris	Perdue	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I stood in this same position and gave remarks to my colleagues about the importance of, even though we can't do everything, that we do something. It seems to be too often that the way the Senate has operated is that unless we can do everything everyone wants, we do nothing. I encouraged us to try to figure out what it is we can agree on and address that legislatively and save the issues we don't agree on for later.

The challenge that I presented was the circumstance of the consequences of COVID-19, the difficulties that Americans—Kansans—are facing, and the importance of our completing our work in regard to an additional response to try to help the economy and to make sure people are healthy and know that they are healthy.

We seem to be making progress in regard to that desire to address the needs of Americans. While my complaint or

concern 2 weeks ago was “we don't have to do everything, we can do something,” it appears that we are going to do something, which is really important.

Now, I would raise the issue of timing. It is very discouraging to me to return to Washington, DC, to learn that the continuing resolution, which expires on Friday, is to be extended until next Friday at a time in which Americans have little ability to wait, at least, to know what they are going to be able to expect.

Small businesses, individuals, employees, employers all need the certainty, and every day that we are unable to accomplish what we can agree on is another day in which those Americans, those workers, those businessowners don't know what they face. Christmas ought to be a time, the holiday season ought to be a time for expectations and joy and comfort, and yet what we are doing here by this continued delay is creating uncertainty which creates great challenges.

The mental health and well-being of Kansans and Americans is at stake here. Again, my guess is that whatever we could agree on next week, we could agree on this week, so I would encourage my colleagues and me to redouble our efforts, not only to do what we can do, but to do it in a timely enough fashion that people get the benefit.

I think of those who work in hospitals in Kansas, those who care for people who are suffering from the symptoms of COVID. We need to make certain that we provide them the necessary personal protection equipment; that we need to have the necessary testing; that every hospital, every clinic, every doctor has the resources necessary to care for those who are ill today. That is something that can't wait.

When it comes to the economy, too many businesses, retail establishments, motels, restaurants, venues, theaters, the uncertainty that we are creating that every day goes by in which they don't know whether Congress is going to respond to their needs is a day in which we may lose another business, we may lose another person's employment.

The request is that we move more quickly than what we have done to date now, that we seem to be zeroing in on a compromise agreement, a bipartisan agreement. That is a piece of good news, but every day that we delay the outcome, the vote, the support the American people and Kansans need is a day in which more harm is done. It is a time in which uncertainty exists. While we continue to have our debates and discussions, that uncertainty is creating not only economic problems but potentially loss of life as well.

This place is slow to respond, and I would encourage us to be quicker in our response than what we have been to date. People are struggling, and they need our help.

I also would say that too many Kansans have died—people that I have

known—have died from COVID. This is a very damaging disease. I would encourage Kansans and Americans to do the personally responsible things and protect themselves, to wear the masks, to socially distance. We cannot afford another shutdown.

Every day that goes by in which we are not providing the opportunities for businesses to stay open and employees to be employed, particularly in rural America—the places, Mr. President, that you and I come from—if we lose a business to COVID, that business is unlikely to return. If we don't provide the necessary support for hospitals and healthcare delivery systems—there isn't a hospital in Kansas, if it closes its doors today because of COVID, is going to open tomorrow when COVID is behind us.

The deaths that I mentioned, in many instances, have been the community leaders, the people who have made a difference in communities across Kansas. Every life has value, and every life has meaning. We want this death to end.

For purposes of our economy and purposes of life and death, it is time for the U.S. Senate to act—not another week delay, not another 2 weeks of unknowing—but let's reach our conclusion, let's come together and find solutions and provide hope to my constituents in Kansas, yours in Arkansas, and the people of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

REMEMBERING ENSIGN JOSHUA KALEB WATSON

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, 1 year ago yesterday, on December 6, 2019, a terrorist attack on the Naval Air Station Pensacola killed three American servicemen.

While it is appropriate and it has been done to honor each of these men, I rise today with a solemn purpose of honoring and commemorating the life, service, and patriotism of one in particular: Navy ENS Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, AL, whose promising life and career were tragically cut short in the terrorist attack a year and 1 day ago yesterday.

Kaleb was posthumously honored last Friday, receiving the Purple Heart in a ceremony in Pensacola. I really regret that I could not go and that I was unable to join his family, but there was also a wreath-laying ceremony at Building 633 where Kaleb was shot and a candlelight vigil there last night. I know that all were solemn occasions for the Navy, for the family, and for America.

Kaleb was a rising star. A recent graduate of the Naval Academy, Kaleb had dreamed of becoming a Navy pilot and had reported to Pensacola for flight training the week of Veterans Day. Kaleb was described as a natural leader, a person who put others first and strived to bring out the best in them.

At the Naval Academy, Kaleb was a small arms instructor, wrestling coach,

and captain of the rifle team. In fact, under his leadership, much to the chagrin of a couple folks in this body, like Senator REED, the Academy's rifle team beat Army for the first time in a decade.

Ben Watson, Kaleb's father, said to me once that Kaleb's mission was to confront evil, to bring the fight to them wherever it took him. He was willing to risk his life for his country. Kaleb did confront evil that day, and he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Unfortunately, that was not how Kaleb intended to serve his country. It was not what Kaleb's parents expected when he joined the Navy. Kaleb's father put it rather bluntly:

We never thought he would die in Florida.

Kaleb Watson was the officer on deck at the Naval Air Station Pensacola on the morning of December 6, 2019. Consequently, he was one of the first people the shooter encountered. Kaleb was shot at least five times that day. Heavily wounded, he made his way out to flag down first responders, gave them an accurate description of the shooter that ultimately led to the shooter being killed. Unfortunately, later that day, Kaleb died of his wounds while in the hospital.

The Navy conducted an investigation into the incident and concluded the primary cause of the attack was the Saudi shooter's self-radicalization. However, the report also goes on to note numerous deficiencies in many areas, some of which contributed to the attack and others which could have deterred the attack or mitigated the consequences. In other words, things could have been different that day. Things should have been different that day.

We lost two other young men, Airman Mo Haitham from Florida and Airman Apprentice Cameron Walters of Georgia, and 11 more individuals were wounded. That has happened far too many times. Too many Americans have lost their lives to shooters on U.S. bases on U.S. soil.

The Pensacola attack was the second shooting at a military base in 3 days. On December 3, 2019, a shooting at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Hawaii left two people dead and a third wounded. There have been several other shootings at U.S. military installations, including a mass shooting in 2009 at Fort Hood in Killeen, TX. That shooting claimed 13 lives and left another 30 injured.

Five years later, another shooting happened at Fort Hood when a gunman went on a shooting spree, killing 3 people and injuring 14 before killing himself. In 2013, 12 workers at the Washington Navy Yard right here in our Nation's Capital were killed by a military contractor, who was later killed by security officials. In 2015, two military installations in Chattanooga, TN, were attacked by a gunman who killed four people before he was shot by police.

There have been investigative reports about all of those shootings, and there have been recommendations in each

one of the reports. Everybody shook their head and said: We have got to do better. We can't continue to allow this to happen.

What we see from the Pensacola report we received just recently is that many of those recommendations were never followed, especially with regard to planning, training, and assessment of response plans for situations just like the one that occurred in Pensacola, FL. That is simply inexcusable.

We have young men and women every year, every day, every week, every month that volunteer to put their lives on the line for this country, never dreaming that their life may be put on the line within the security of the confines of a U.S. military base on U.S. soil—not overseas, not as part of some overseas terrorist attack, but right here where they should be most secure.

Ben Watson and his wife Sheila have made it their mission to do everything they can to prevent losing more of our sons and daughters in this way. I think this body ought to do the same.

Every year, we have nominations. We make nominations, and we get the appointments back, sending those young men and women to the academies who will then go to those bases. We have a responsibility for that, as well as our overall responsibility to the men and women in uniform.

This year, I asked for—and the conference committee included in the final version of the NDAA—language requiring the Secretary of Defense to implement, within 90 days, all applicable security and emergency response recommendations to protect our military installations and language requiring the Secretary of Defense to ensure that each installation conducts or develops a plan to conduct live emergency response training with first responders.

At a couple of hearings, including one just last week, I asked Navy leadership at an Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee hearing for their commitment. It is not the first time I had brought it up, but I knew it was going to be the last hearing, and I knew that this NDAA was hopefully going to include this language, but sometimes, the language is just not enough. I asked for their commitment to ensure that these long overdue steps are taken and accomplished. They, of course, gave me those assurances and that commitment.

There are thousands of important provisions in the NDAA that hopefully will come to the floor very soon, but none—none—of those provisions are more important than those that ensure we do everything we can to keep our servicemembers and their families, who live and work on our bases, safe from attacks like these.

As the Navy itself said in the Pensacola report, talking about security manning—and I quote from the report, The “[Department of the Navy] must abandon minimum manning thresholds designed to protect physical assets and to meet ineffective response times. In-

stead, installations must be manned to rapidly respond with a preponderance of force at any time to preserve our most precious asset, our personnel. Increased security force manning enables presence, deterrence, assurance, and enhanced response”—our most precious asset, our personnel.

Well, as a father of three and grandfather of two, I understand how precious our children are to our families.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee for the past 2 years, I have seen firsthand how precious our men and women in uniform are to this country, and I have seen this body rise to the occasion to understand our fiduciary responsibilities that we have to those men and women who protect and defend us every day.

I had the privilege of visiting with some of the folks in Afghanistan and Iraq and working with many more here in the United States. Wherever they are serving, we owe them our best because we owe them our freedom.

I want to thank the Watson family—Ben, Sheila, their son Adam—for their patriotism in supporting Kaleb in his dream to become a Navy pilot, and I want to extend again my sincerest condolences for his untimely death.

With the Watsons, however, I want to encourage this body to hold the Navy to the commitments that they made to me last week and to insist that the entire Department of Defense follow its recommendations for protecting our military installations from within—protect them from future attacks from within.

Although I will be leaving this body in a few weeks, I urge all of my colleagues to take up the baton to do our congressional oversight duty like our lives depend on it because there are lives which depend on it, and if their lives depend on it, our lives depend upon on it.

Everyone should take up that mantle. Everyone should do all that they can to preserve and protect the American service men and women who protect us. They are our most precious asset, our personnel.

For their sakes and for their families, let's do this thing. Let's get this NDAA passed and then hold them to it in this next Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that not withstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Simington nomination at noon tomorrow. I further ask that postcloture time with respect to the Schwartz and Simington nominations expire at 4 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed. Finally, if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.