

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.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. 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 each.

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

### TRIBUTE TO DAYMOND YOUNG

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after more than seven decades, a Kentucky family in Hancock County will finally lay their hero to rest. Last year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, DPAA, identified the remains of Navy Fireman 2nd Class Martin Daymond Young. Soon, he will be on his way home.

Stationed aboard the USS *Oklahoma*, Daymond was killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. This Kentuckian, who would have turned 100 this year, will be buried beside his twin sister in Lewisport next May. Today, on the 79th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, I would like to pay tribute to Daymond for his bravery and sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

In June 1940, 3 months before President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the first peacetime draft, Daymond volunteered for the Navy. He joined millions of men and women of the “greatest generation” who signed up to protect our country in uniform. According to Daymond’s niece, he was thrilled to be stationed in Hawaii.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Daymond was aboard the *Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island. As the attack began, Japanese aerial torpedoes pummeled the ship. Its port side tore open, forcing the 27,500-ton battleship to capsize and sink. It took Daymond and 428 of his crewmates into the water below.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor killed more than 2,400 Americans and launched the United States into the Second World War. Over the next 4 years, heroes were forged on the battlefield and at home as our country defeated the forces of tyranny in defense of the American way of life.

In the following years, the Navy attempted to identify the remains of those killed on the *Oklahoma*. Unfortunately, the vast majority couldn’t be accounted for and were buried together in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl.

Then 5 years ago, the Pentagon contacted Daymond’s family as they exhumed the USS *Oklahoma* unknowns. The Navy used DNA samples to identify Daymond’s remains and give his

family the opportunity for proper burial in Kentucky. By order of our Governor, flags across the Bluegrass State will fly at half staff on that day in honor of a true American hero.

Today, over 1,300 Kentucky servicemembers remain unaccounted for by the DPAA. We have never forgotten these patriots, and we will continue searching to bring them home. I am grateful for the ongoing efforts of the DPAA to bring closure to more families like Daymond’s so their loved ones can receive the tribute they earned.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I would like to send our sincere condolences to Daymond’s family and express our thanks for his brave service to our Nation. We are proud this Kentucky hero is finally coming home.

Mr. President, on Veterans Day, the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer published an article about Daymond Young’s identification. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Nov. 11, 2020]

COMING HOME: REMAINS OF WWII VETERAN DAYMOND YOUNG WILL BE BURIED IN LEWISPORT NEXT YEAR

(By Renee Beasley)

Layman Hawkins and his siblings grew up hearing one uncle’s name often.

But they never had the privilege of meeting Martin Daymond Young because he died in 1941 at the age of 21.

Hawkins’ mom—Young’s twin sister—did everything in her power to keep her brother’s memory alive as long as she lived.

At birth, Young and his twin sister shared the same initials: MDY for Mary Daisy Young and Martin Daymond Young.

Everyone called them Daisy and Daymond. If they were still alive, they would be 100 years old now.

“(Young) was not a stranger to us,” said Hawkins, 76, of Lewisport. “Mom talked about him all the time.”

Hawkins remembers a military photograph of his uncle always hung in his mom’s living room—like a badge of honor.

“It’s kinda like we knew him, but we didn’t know him,” Hawkins said. “. . . His memory was with us all the time.”

PEARL HARBOR

According to Navy records, Young, who grew up in the Hancock County village of Dukes, filled out his application to join the U.S. Navy on June 26, 1940. His application was approved on Aug. 14 that year.

The Navy assigned Young, 21, a Fireman 2nd Class, to the battleship USS *Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941.

During the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor that day, torpedoes pounded the *Oklahoma*, quickly capsizing it. Young was among 429 crew members who perished aboard the battleship.

After decades of being one of the *Oklahoma*’s “unknowns,” the Navy identified Young’s remains last year. He will be laid to rest in Lewisport—beside his twin sister, Daisy Young Hawkins—on May 15, 2021.

“He was so excited about going to Hawaii,” said Joyce Nall of Owensboro.

Young was her uncle, too. She is Young’s oldest living relative and the only one with memories of him.

“I was just a little girl when he went into the Navy,” Nall said. “I remember him being my big, handsome uncle.”

After reaching Hawaii aboard the *Oklahoma*, Young sent Nall a little grass skirt as a gift.

Nall, 84, has held onto it all these years.

### THE PUNCHBOWL

Between December 1941 and June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the bodies of the *Oklahoma*’s deceased crew. They were interred in the Halawa and Nu‘uanu cemeteries.

In 1947, the crew’s remains were moved to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. Staff there could only confirm the identities of 35 men at that time.

Later, the *Oklahoma* unknowns were buried in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, known as the Punchbowl, and they were classified as non-recoverable.

In 2015, however, their remains were exhumed again for analysis and possible identification.

Department of Defense personnel contacted Hawkins about a year later, asking for the addresses of family members so the military could collect DNA samples.

When Young’s remains were identified last year, the family had hoped to conduct his burial on May 11, which would have been his 100th birthday. However, COVID-19 threw a wrench in those plans. The family opted for a May 2021 date instead.

The military’s identification process—even decades after the bombing of Pearl Harbor—impresses Nall.

“To me, it’s amazing they have gone through this elaborate process,” she said.

### BURIAL

Gov. Andy Beshear recently sent Young’s family a message, saying he would request flags across the commonwealth to fly at half staff on the day Young’s remains are buried.

Also, Rolling Thunder motorcycle club, an advocacy group that seeks accountability for prisoners of war and those missing in action, notified the family that its members will meet the airplane in Owensboro and escort Young’s casket to the Lewisport cemetery.

“I appreciate the way everyone has treated us,” Hawkins said. “To us, this is a big deal.”

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: