

Broadway productions, greatly impacting the Off-Broadway scene. With programs such as the Mainstage Series, Musicals in Mufti Series, Developmental Reading Series, internship offerings, and a volunteer program, the York Theatre has made its mark on New York City's vibrant theatre community.

Since 2015, the York Theatre Company has offered its Musical Theatre Training Program that brings together working professionals and dedicated theatre students. This program offers training in singing, acting, and movements, as well as master classes with New York's top theater artists. The York Theatre's intensive sessions are offered to students from middle school to college. Many of these intensives offer students an opportunity to perform on the York Theatre's Off-Broadway stage at the conclusion of the program.

In the fall of 2014, the York Theatre celebrated its 100th Musical in Mufti with the production of Stephen Sondheim's Saturday Night. The York Theatre's Musical in Mufti ensures that lesser-known musicals of the past are performed and brought into new light for the enjoyment of modern audiences.

All New York City theaters have faced unprecedented challenges over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the important public health restrictions put in place, but the York Theatre also had to face the unexpected and heartbreaking flooding of their physical home. Faced with these "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," the York Theatre has shown its adaptability. It has produced and streamed an incredibly popular online series. New York—its people and its institutions—are resilient, and I am confident that the York Theatre will soon be able to reopen its doors once again and introduce new audiences to the joys of musical theater.

The York Theatre Company has long been an incredible company that makes musical theatre accessible to New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds, and I look forward to its full reopening. Off-Broadway theatre has played a pivotal role in making New York City the theater capitol of the world. The York Theatre Company has had a substantial impact on this great city's history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise in recognition of the York Theatre Company, a principal in shaping New York City's theatre culture, as they celebrate the inauguration of their new theatre seats.

IN HONOR OF MESA POLICE
SERGEANT BRANDON MENDOZA

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Mesa Police Sgt. Brandon Mendoza who was tragically killed by an illegal alien 7 years ago.

In the early morning hours of May 12, 2014, Sgt. Mendoza was driving home from his shift when he encountered an illegal alien driving under the influence of alcohol and meth. The illegal alien drove at high speeds in the wrong direction for 35 miles on four freeways in the Phoenix metro area. Despite law enforcement efforts to catch up to and stop the illegal alien, he ultimately collided head-on with Sgt. Mendoza, killing them both.

Sgt. Mendoza's death was untimely and preventable. But it requires Democrats to get serious about enforcement of our immigration laws and putting American families first.

Sgt. Mendoza's illegal alien killer had previously pled guilty to criminal conspiracy charges in Colorado, but, despite his illegal presence, he was not removed from the United States. Instead, he roamed free in our communities, ultimately choosing to drive without a license and while severely intoxicated.

Today, there are more than 3 million illegal aliens with final orders of removal, many of whom are suspected or convicted criminals, living in American communities. President Biden should prioritize removal of these individuals before they can do any additional harm.

I am enraged by President Biden's nonchalant attitude towards illegal immigration into the United States. In April, U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended a near record number of aliens attempting to illegally enter the United States, more than 173,000. President Biden's refusal to acknowledge the crisis at the border is a bold attempt to mislead the American public.

Last week, I traveled to the southwest border with 10 fellow members of Congress to again see firsthand the damage of President Biden's new border policies. Sgt. Mendoza's mother, Mary Ann, joined us for a portion of the tour. Since her son's death, Mary Ann has been a fierce advocate for border security, pleading with the Obama and Biden Administrations to protect other American families from experiencing the same pain and suffering.

During our visit, Mary Ann expressed concern that government leaders have forgotten families like hers and instead placed the interests of illegal aliens ahead of the interests of our nation. Families like Sgt. Mendoza's deserve to have their stories remembered. They deserve a government willing to protect them from the hands of illegal aliens.

I will continue to fight for border security and enforcement of our immigration laws. Sgt. Mendoza and other victims of crime by illegal aliens deserve no less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, I was unavoidably delayed in returning to Washington, D.C., due to airline and transportation issues.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 134.

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, a murderous, heinous car bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, killed dozens of girls. The intentional targeting of girls

should be inconceivable but is the deliberate aim of fanatical totalitarians who are obsessed with murdering American families. Sadly, the reality of the Global War on Terrorism is that we must defeat terrorists overseas or they will return to attack American families.

I appreciate the insight of Congressman MIKE MCCAUL and former Ambassador Ryan Crocker in their May 4, 2021, op-ed in The New York Times:

Last month, President Biden announced a complete withdrawal of all United States troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the day terrorists killed almost 3,000 people.

Many in the defense and intelligence communities oppose the move. A complete withdrawal based on an arbitrary deadline, rather than conditions on the ground, threatens our long-term national security. After all, it was the decision to rapidly pull out of Iraq, creating a power vacuum that allowed the Islamic State to grow, that ultimately forced our return to Iraq, prolonging the war.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself. It's foolish to think the Taliban will engage in good faith with the Afghan government or abide by the commitments made to the previous administration after we've departed. In response to the withdrawal announcement, the Taliban tellingly announced they would not participate in a peace conference planned to start late last month in Turkey and refused to commit to a date in the future, effectively ending the already fragile peace process. The Taliban clearly does not want peace.

In fact, after America withdraws, it's very likely the Taliban will try to take control of the country, once again giving our enemies a place from which to conduct external attacks against us and our allies. Without a military presence in country, the United States will be giving the green light to the Taliban to roam and conquer.

As William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, told the Senate Intelligence Committee in April, there is "significant risk" associated with withdrawal. "The U.S. government's ability to collect and act on threats will diminish," he said. "That's simply a fact."

The decision, however, has been made. But before the pullout is complete, the Biden administration must mitigate its dangers. As our sources on the ground will soon go dark, the gaps in our intelligence collection and counterterrorism networks must be remedied so we retain the ability to identify and eliminate threats before they reach our shores. To do so, we must urgently set up agreements with neighboring countries to provide us with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

Mr. Biden promised that America's humanitarian and development assistance to the country would continue. To enable our personnel and the countless nongovernmental organizations we work with to provide that help, we must keep them safe. If the country slides back into civil war or once again falls under Taliban rule, maintaining an embassy presence and distributing assistance will become close to impossible. The administration must develop a clear strategy for protecting our embassy, diplomatic staff and aid workers.

The president must also acknowledge that the withdrawal will have dire consequences for Afghan women and girls—and work hard to prevent it. For the past 20 years, we have encouraged Afghan women to step forward, as students, teachers and professionals. Encouraged by our presence, they did just that. But without our presence in the country, it will be difficult to safeguard the gains women have made in Afghan society and to ensure women's rights are protected.

Lastly, we have obligations to the thousands of Afghans who supported us, mainly as interpreters for our military. They were promised special immigrant visas to get them out of harm's way, but many have yet to materialize. The Taliban view them as traitors: Since 2014, there have been at least 300 targeted killings of people who worked with us. Many more will die if the administration doesn't take immediate steps to speed up the process to get them out safely.

These are vital issues Mr. Biden and his team must address—before we pull out on Sept. 11.

Yet so far they have offered no clarity on what counterterrorism agreements, if any, have been reached with other countries. They have provided only minimal assurances for how they will secure the safety of our embassy and personnel. They appear to have no plans for protecting Afghan women. And they have announced no strategy to address the visa backlog that could endanger thousands of our Afghan partners' lives.

When America pulls out of a conflict zone at the wrong time, it creates a vacuum in which the terrorist threat grows again. That, in turn, eventually requires a re-entry of forces to keep Americans safe. So begins yet another forever war.

The ill-advised decision to pull out of Afghanistan may do just that. But by ensuring proper guardrails are in place, we have a chance to limit the fallout.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 17

6 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the challenges and opportunities for the United States in the Horn of Africa.

SVC-217

MAY 18

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve.

SH-216

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

WEBEX

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security

To hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on internet privacy and manipulative marketing.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure.

WEBEX

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine paid leave for working families, focusing on examining access, options, and impacts.

SD-106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

SD-342/VTC

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base.

SR-222

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Brett M. Holmgren, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research).

SH-216

3 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion

To hold hearings to examine reviving international travel and tourism to create and restore jobs.

SR-253

MAY 19

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary (Western Hemi-

sphere Affairs), and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SD-138

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine rethinking disaster recovery and resiliency, focusing on protecting communities and accelerating assistance.

SD-192

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine biodiversity loss, focusing on drivers, impacts, and potential solutions.

SD-G50

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine COVID-19 health care flexibilities, focusing on perspectives, experiences, and lessons learned.

WEBEX

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service, focusing on narrowing the tax gap and improving taxpayer services.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine COVID-19, focusing on evaluating the medical supply chain and pandemic response gaps.

SD-342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine antitrust applied, focusing on hospital consolidation concerns and solutions.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine realizing the vision of Parren Mitchell, focusing on untapping the potential of minority and women contracting.

SR-301

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine military infrastructure and climate resilience.

SD-192

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-G50

4:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic defense activities and programs in review of the