

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—1

Graham

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Liang nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of J. Nellie Liang, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BUILDING COLLAPSE IN SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ON JUNE 24, 2021, AND THE BRAVERY AND SELFLESS SERVICE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO RESPONDED TO THE BUILDING COLLAPSE

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague Senator RUBIO for joining me to honor the lives lost in the horrific tragedy on June 24, when the Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, FL, suddenly collapsed in the middle of the night, and honor the brave men and women that have risked their lives in search, rescue, and recovery efforts.

Senator RUBIO and I were on the ground in Surfside following the collapse, talking to families, first responders, and members of the community. The pain these families are experiencing is unimaginable. Those unexpectedly lost in this horrific tragedy were mothers, fathers, grandfathers and grandmothers, friends, aunts, uncles, and cousins. They were children and grandchildren with their full lives ahead of them.

I can't imagine losing any member of my family like this, but the thought of losing one of my grandchildren is too painful to imagine. We mourn with these families, and our hearts break for them. We continue to pray for the Surfside community, the families and loved ones of those lost, and all of those working tirelessly to serve the Surfside community.

In the face of tremendous tragedy, our first responders ran into the danger. They are heroes. They immediately answered the call to serve, and firefighters, law enforcement officers, rescue and recovery crews, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, and others from across the State of Florida and the Nation came rushing to save them.

When you meet with the first responders—I mean, they are working tirelessly trying to find somebody that has survived, and your heart goes out to them as they went from rescue to recovery. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, the Miami-Dade Police Department, the Surfside Police Department, and others from around the area were there every step of the way.

Some of these responders lost family in the collapse; yet they still answered the call. We heard the absolutely devastating story of a Miami-Dade firefighter who carried the body of his own 7-year-old daughter, Stella, away from the rubble. You just can't even begin to imagine the pain and loss experienced by this father.

International rescue crews and emergency support organizations from Israel and Mexico also responded to the site to aid in the search and rescue efforts. Numerous volunteer organizations responded, including the Red Cross, as well as community leaders and individuals offering resources, support, and comfort to the survivors and community in Surfside.

Our Jewish community, particularly Orthodox Jews, have been especially affected by this tragedy, and we thank CSE, Hatzalah, ZAKA, and all those who have worked selflessly to support our Jewish community. We can never thank these brave men and women enough for their bravery and determination in the face of this terrible tragedy.

I know right now we all have a lot of unanswered questions. We are all going to work tirelessly to understand exactly what happened. And while we can't bring back the lives lost, I will always work to honor those lost and will be relentless in the search for an-

swers to make sure a tragedy like this never happens again.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 300, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) honoring the memories of the victims of the building collapse in Surfside, Florida, on June 24, 2021, and the bravery and selfless service of the individuals who responded to the building collapse.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I appreciate the unanimous support of my Senate colleagues passing this resolution to honor the lives lost in the horrific tragedy in Surfside, and I thank the many first responders for their incredible bravery in the search and rescue and recovery efforts.

Our hearts are broken, but we stand together. Florida is "Surfside Strong."

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, my colleagues, it is not a coincidence that in 2020, gun sales in this country spiked by 40 percent. It is an extraordinary increase in gun sales. And homicides in this country increased by 30 percent. Violent crime is increasing in the country. You can't miss that if you turn on the news at night.

And there can be no doubt that our Nation's gun laws—the loosest and most loophole-ridden in the Nation—are a primary contributor to this spike in gun crime.

I want to spend just a few minutes this afternoon making sure that all of my colleagues understand that if we want to do something about violent crime in this country, then you cannot continue to close your eyes to the fact that we are allowing criminals all across this country to traffic dangerous weapons that are being used in gun homicides.

First, let's burst the bubble of the gun lobby. Their primary argument is that more guns keep people safer. Well,

that is not true. It has never ever been true. Study after study tells you what your common sense should already tell you. In fact, one study makes it very plain. On a nearly one-for-one basis, the more guns you have in your community, the more crime you are going to have.

One study said this. What they found was that for communities that saw a 1-percent increase in gun ownership—guess what they also saw. A corresponding 1-percent increase in gun homicides. Thus, it should surprise no one that as the number of guns increase in this country, the number of gun crimes increase in this country.

Now, there are a lot of reasons for that. But, again, you don't have to surge deep into the data to understand why. Let me give you just one example.

A family I am pretty close to in Hartford, CT, a young man named Shane Oliver was shot years ago right down the street from where I live in the capital city. And he was in an argument with some young men about things they said about his girlfriend, who happened to be with him. It just so happened that there was an illegal gun sitting in the front seat of one of these cars. An argument over a girl that in any other high-income nation in the world would have, at worst, resulted in some punches being thrown. In this neighborhood in Hartford, CT, it resulted in a gun homicide.

Shane Oliver doesn't live on this Earth any longer. He was taken from his parents, Pastor Sam Saylor and his wife Janet, when he was 20 years old because there was an illegal gun that just happened to be sitting in the front seat of a car. In almost any other country in the world, there is not a gun sitting in the front seat of another 20-year-old's car in the middle of Hartford, CT. Access to guns means more gun crime.

But here is the other problem. We know there has been a 40-percent increase in gun sales. But those aren't just the sales that are reported to the criminal background check system. What we know is that somewhere around 20, 30 percent of all gun sales in this country don't happen with a background check attached to it. Those are gun sales that very often are going straight to criminals and straight to gun traffickers.

So if there has been a 40-percent increase in background check transfers, there has likely also been a 40-percent increase in the number of guns that have been transferred to criminals and transferred to gun traffickers, the people who are selling them to the folks who are going to use them in gun violence.

Here is a study out of New York. The New York AG's office recently reviewed aggregate gun trace information for about 5 years, and what they found was that 74 percent of the recovered guns in New York—normally recovered because they were used in a crime—came with a known source

State that wasn't New York. That is interesting, right?

Three-quarters of the guns that are being used in crimes in New York aren't being bought in New York. There is a reason for that. You have to go through a background check in New York if you want to buy a gun. And if you are a criminal, you can't get a gun in New York at a gun store because they have background checks and because they don't have internet sales or gun show sales without background checks either.

What the AG's office also found was that half of the guns that came from outside of New York came from six States—all six States with really weak gun laws—meaning there is this very intentional iron pipeline of guns in this country coming from States with no universal background checks, places where gun traffickers can go and buy guns at gun shows or online, and then bring them to States like New York or Connecticut or New Jersey and sell them on the black market.

And what we also know is that there is a really short period of time between when these guns are being purchased and when they are being used in crimes, which shows an intentionality, which shows a very clear commercial market around the purchase of guns in places without background checks, the sale of those guns to potentially violent individuals, and the commission of crimes.

Of the 1 million crime guns that were traced in this country between 2015 and 2019, more than one-third were used in a crime within just 3 years of their initial retail sale. This short time-to-crime timeline is a strong indication that these guns were purchased with the intent to divert them for criminal use.

So every year that goes by that we choose, as a Congress, to not close these loopholes, to not simply say that if you are going to buy a gun on a commercial market in the United States, you just have to prove you are not a gun trafficker, is another year that we essentially endorse and facilitate the murder of thousands and thousands of Americans.

And there is a clear connection between this increase in gun sales and this increase in criminal activity. Why? Because along with those legal gun sales come all sorts of gun sales that do an end around on the background check system.

Now, thank goodness President Biden is doing something about this because there is a new loophole that criminals are taking advantage of, the ghost gun loophole. In California, today, 30 percent of the confiscated guns are unserialized. Think of that. Thirty percent of the guns being confiscated in California today by the ATF have no serial number on them. That is largely because of this new phenomena of ghost guns that are assembled from a kit, not guns that are purchased at a store.

In Connecticut, a convicted felon who couldn't have bought a gun at a gun store in Connecticut because he is a convicted felon used a ghost gun to shoot his girlfriend's 15-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son before turning the gun on himself. People who know they can't buy guns in gun stores or online in a place like Connecticut that has universal background checks are now assembling ghost guns and committing crimes.

The Biden administration is taking action, but so should we. I come to the floor to share this with my colleagues because our constituents are concerned about the rising rate of gun homicides in this Nation. They expect us to do something about it. And I am not saying that there is only one solution. I am not saying that changing our gun laws is the only step that we should take to try to do something about the rising rates of gun homicides in this country. There is a longer story as to why people have become so desperate as to resort to gun violence in order to mediate disputes or to project power.

But the prevalence of so many more guns in our country today than just a year ago, the prevalence of so many more illegal guns due to intentional choices made by this body is a big part of the story. And I hope that we will be able to bring before this body bipartisan legislation that will close those background check loopholes very soon to give this body a chance to do something about the rising rates of gun violence in this country.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM VANDEN HEUVEL

Mr. President, last month, the Nation lost a great patriot, and I lost a great friend, William vanden Heuvel, and I come to the floor today to honor his impressive legacy.

Bill vanden Heuvel grew up in a working-class family during the Great Depression, and his call to public service came early in his life. As a child, he listened to President Roosevelt's fireside chats, and he became obsessed with the idea that regular people can band together and build a just and compassionate country.

So upon learning of FDR's death, Bill hitchhiked alone to the Roosevelt estate to try to attend the funeral. He was 14 years old. Now, he was unsurprisingly, initially, turned away, but somehow he found his way to Eleanor Roosevelt, who was so impressed with the young man's passion for her husband's legacy that she welcomed the 14-year-old in.

In many ways, it is a story that is emblematic of Bill's life. He grew close to several prominent American leaders—from the Kennedys to Jimmy Carter—to diplomats and officials the world over—not by accident or thanks to any privilege that he was born into, but just because of his effectiveness; his tenacity; and his unbridled, infectious, contagious love for his country.

As a young attorney in the Kennedy Justice Department, Bill was given a really difficult task: help integrate