

homicides in these three cities were cut in half.

A similar program in New York saw homicides in a South Bronx neighborhood where a program was being implemented decline by 37 percent compared to a very similarly matched neighborhood nearby that was used as a control site.

I can give you more and more evidence of how these investments in neighborhoods lift people up economically and help stop the cycle of violence.

So I can shower you with data to show you why commonsense changes in our gun laws would do something about this stunning increase in the rate of gun deaths in this country from 2019 to 2020, but we can also just come together around an investment in these communities and these kids and these families that doesn't necessarily have the same high degree of political temperature as the debate around guns does, and it still will have a significant impact.

So I will continue to come down to the floor and make this case. I will continue to come down to the floor and try to tell the story of these victims of gun violence—kids like CJ Brown.

I hope that this will be the last chart. I hope that the next chart, in fact, will show that these numbers are coming down. But I doubt that I will have that opportunity because until we get serious about making changes in our gun laws, to update them to match with the preferences of 90 percent of Americans, and until we get serious about investments in these neighborhoods—part of the Build Back Better agenda—I fear that these numbers will continue to rise higher and higher.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I speak today to recognize the 3 million men and women, Americans, who have served our Nation in the two decades since September 11, 2001, in what has become known as the Global War on Terrorism.

The days during—in just the last month—during this botched and chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, were a terrible time of reckoning for our Nation. I am angry, discouraged, and concerned about the way and the manner by which the United States of America departed.

President Biden's announcement in April to completely withdraw American troops by September 11 without taking appropriate security precautions, including preparation for a return of the Taliban to Kabul, was irresponsible and will damage America's interest for years to come and endanger the lives of thousands of women and children in Afghanistan.

Additionally, the lack of urgency to do right by the thousands of Afghans who worked alongside Americans will forever be a source of shame for this

administration. But as I said many times before, the withdrawal from Afghanistan was not the fault of the men and women in uniform.

In the days following September 11, 2001, the call to service was answered by thousands—thousands—of Americans who sought to defend the United States. These men and women left behind their families and careers to serve a greater good. I cannot think of anything more honorable than stepping up to defend our homeland from a threat that was, at the time, relatively unknown.

For most of our men and women in uniform, the Global War on Terrorism has been the primary mission of their entire careers. I run into people regularly who tell me about their service, and they saw what happened on 9/11 in New York City at Ground Zero. They saw what happened in the fields of Pennsylvania and what happened at the Pentagon. They decided it was their moment to step forward and defend and protect their Nation, to make sure that freedom and liberty remained the hallmark of who we are. And all of the sacrifices they and their families have made were in support of that effort and it was an effort they believed in and I certainly hope they still do.

Those who stepped forward to serve, eradicated vast networks of terrorists who wished to do America harm, making it absolutely clear that no one can harm Americans without our swift and certain retribution. They also brought Osama bin Laden to justice, destroyed the ISIS caliphate, and eliminated its founder.

In Afghanistan, our men and women serving in the military brought hope to a brutalized, war-torn country for the first time in decades. Incredibly, an entire generation in Afghanistan came to age knowing what it feels like to see freedom and to feel freedom.

Tragically, we saw Afghanistan quickly fall to the Taliban. It happened because of a haphazard and unorganized withdrawal process that has made our country and our world a less secure place. We all saw the images of terror and desperation as Afghans tried to flee their fate, many at the cost of their lives. We saw the footage of the chaos, the tear gas, and the explosion. We lost 13 lives of our honorable brave men and women in uniform to an attack outside the airport gates as they tried to rescue innocent families from their Afghan brothers and sisters in arms.

These scenes captured our Nation's attention, rightfully so. But unfortunately, in the days that followed, mainstream media's interest in Afghanistan began to wane. Take a look to see what is happening in Afghanistan now. See the desolation, the death, the destruction, the hunger, and the fear. This failure to have attention on what is going on in Afghanistan must not and should not be the case. We must continue to honor those who served and who will serve our country in the future.

We should consider S. 535, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act. This bill was introduced by the Senator from Iowa, Senator JONI ERNST, herself a veteran. It will authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to truly honor those who served to eradicate terrorism. It will honor the 3 million men and women who served and especially the thousands of servicemembers who gave that ultimate sacrifice—their lives. This memorial will also honor, heal, empower, and unite soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coasties who made those sacrifices.

I would guess many of us in the U.S. Senate have seen—we witnessed some of the healing that personally occurs in times that have met with the Honor—as I have met with the folks who have been here on the Honor Flights, those visitors who gather at our war memorials to remember, to be together, and, yes, to heal.

Last week, I was at a number of our memorials here in our Nation's Capital with a group of over about 160 Vietnam veterans from Kansas. I have been visiting with those veterans in almost all of the visits of Kansans who come here, and in those visits, I met the World War II veterans, the Korean war veterans, and the Vietnam war veterans who have a place of honor on the Mall where they can go to meet other veterans, to lay flowers, to pause and reflect, and remember the brothers and sisters that they have lost.

Just this weekend, back in Valley Center, KS, the Moving Wall—a tribute to those who lost their lives in Vietnam; the thousands, the 627 Kansans who lost their lives in Vietnam—was a place in which people gathered to do exactly that.

I hope someday I will be able to attend an Honor Flight to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial and meet with the generation of veterans who fought to bring peace to the Middle East and who fought to bring the United States into a safer and more secure place. It will be my honor and privilege to do so.

I am here on the Senate floor to pay tribute, to honor and respect, and to tell those who served in the Global War on Terrorism that we respect them; we thank them for their service; and we love them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, first, I commend my colleague from Kansas for his remarkable commitment to this Nation and to those who serve this Nation. And he is always there at the Honor Flights for World War II, the Honor Flights of those who served in Korea, of those who served in Vietnam, and those who served in the Global War

on Terror. His leadership is commendable, and people from both sides of the aisle look up to him and appreciate the work he does on his committees and his commitment to the veterans who serve this Nation.

So I thank the distinguished Senator from Kansas for his ongoing commitment, and it is with appreciation and admiration and respect I follow his speech to thank him for the commitment and the comments about what happened in Afghanistan because just this very weekend, on Saturday, the Governor of Wyoming and I stood with over 1,000 people in the cold in Wyoming as we honored the life of Rylee McCollum, who was one of those 13 who was killed in Kabul at the airport on that fateful day in Afghanistan, merely 2 months ago. And with us also was Rylee's wife GiGi and the baby that was born after Rylee had been killed—the baby who will never know her father, who will always know his story, and will always know that he was an American hero.

#### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose what the Democrats are trying to do with their reckless tax-and-spending spree. Right now, prices are rising all across America. The price of gas has gone up by nearly \$1 since the day Joe Biden took the oath of office. One in five families has had to cut down on their spending, their other spending to pay for energy this year, and it is going to get worse this winter.

In total, the typical American family is paying about \$175 more every month, month after month, because of inflation. And the front page story of the New York Times today talked about the upcoming Thanksgiving as the most expensive Thanksgiving dinner of all, and they called it a wallop to the wallet. That is the front page of the New York Times.

I would say, when you see that kind of a story, you know that inflation is here, and it looks like it is here to stay. And it is connected directly to the policies of this President, this administration, and the Democrats in Congress who are trying to make it worse with this tax-and-spending spree. Democrats ought to be working with Republicans to reduce inflation and to cut the spending, but that is not what is happening. No, we see just the opposite.

The Democrats are completely focused on the most expensive spending bill in American history. Right now, the cost is at least \$3.5 trillion. With interest payments, the pricetag rises to \$4.2 trillion. The bill is 2,500 pages in length. You do the math. That is \$1,400,000,000 for each and every page. You divide the cost of the bill by the number of people in America, it is over \$10,000 for every man, woman, and child.

The amount that is being proposed to spend is larger than the entire economy of Japan, which is the third larg-

est economy in the world. And the bill is a towering list of radical liberal priorities: permanent welfare programs, free money for electric vehicle owners, earmarks for New York City and San Francisco, including NANCY PELOSI's special park for the privileged.

Now Democrats are playing a shell game, trying to hide from the American people how they are going to pay for this whole thing. Well, they continue to try to hide the ball. Is it more taxes? Is it more debt? Is it some of both? Let's be clear: No matter which one they decide to do, prices for the American consumer is going to continue to go up. No matter which one they choose, the American people are going to end up paying one way or the other.

So, last week, the President went to Pennsylvania and said he didn't want to talk about the cost of the bill. He said: We shouldn't talk about the numbers. We shouldn't even talk about the numbers.

Now, I can understand why President Biden doesn't want to talk about the numbers because the American people are getting sticker shock. But people all around this country, at the kitchen table, when they sit down and try to figure out how much money they have and what kind of bills are coming in and see the price of food going up and the price of fuel going up and the price of gasoline going up and the price of one thing after another and housing going up—people at the kitchen table are talking about the numbers.

President Biden would rather tell all of us that the bill costs zero dollars. His Press Secretary, his Chief of Staff, and NANCY PELOSI have all repeated the same big lie. They say the largest spending bill in history costs zero dollars. This isn't just false; it is absurd. If it costs zero dollars, why are they having such a hard time trying to get it passed? Answer that.

The American people aren't falling for this. The American people know. They know that when Democrats spend more, they pay more, one way or the other.

So why do Democrats keep repeating the big lie? Because they know that people don't want a big spending bill. They are against it.

Tax revenues are already at record highs in this country. Our problem isn't that we are taxed too little; it is that we spend too much. Yet Democrats' spending bill contains more than 40 new tax increases. If these taxes become law, everyone will have to pay one way or the other. They will pay more in taxes. They will suffer with lower wages, in terms of spending capacity, and pay higher prices.

According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, two-thirds of the taxes Democrats are proposing for businesses would be paid by the middle class. Now, that is not what the President wants you to believe—paid by the middle class, no question about it.

Democrats know the American people don't want higher taxes. A Gallup

poll showed recently fewer than one in five Americans wants more government if it is paid for by tax increases. The American people don't want more spending, which they know we can't, as a nation, afford with the kind of debt we have.

That is why Democrats, each and every one, seem to be trying to hide the cost of the bill through accounting gimmicks. The gimmicks are so blatant even their own Democrat experts are telling them to stop it.

President Obama's "auto czar," Steve Rattner, a major critic of these accounting tactics and tricks, he actually wrote an editorial in the New York Times about it. He said:

[W]ith worrisome inflation signs evident, we certainly don't need any more stimulus.

Democrats are trying to find new ways to take more money from the American people. They are proposing to supersize the IRS, and the IRS is already the least accountable and most powerful Agency in the entire government.

Right now, the annual IRS budget is about \$13 billion. Democrats want another \$80 billion to hire an army of IRS agents to rifle through the bank records of the American people. Even President Obama's IRS Commissioner is against a budget that big.

This proposal just shows how desperate Democrats are to get every last penny they can so they can spend it. For weeks, Democrats said they wanted to force banks to tell the IRS about any account with \$600 in deposits or withdrawals. Well, the American people found out, and they were outraged. I received more calls and more letters on this single topic than on any other topic during the entire years I have been in the U.S. Senate. But yet Democrats defended the plan for weeks, including Janet Yellen, the Treasury Secretary, on national television.

It has been fascinating to watch her argue back and forth with Larry Summers, a former economic adviser to both Bill Clinton, who was Secretary of the Treasury for him, as well as to Barack Obama.

Well, now Democrats finally realize how angry the American people are at this Big Brother proposal.

So what is their solution? More gimmicks, more sleight of hand. Now Janet Yellen says the policy will only apply to accounts with total transactions of more than \$10,000 over the course of a year.

Well, that new proposal and that gimmick would still affect nearly every American in this country who has a bank account. It is essentially the same proposal. The American people aren't buying it.

So the Democrats are now on the horns of a dilemma. Is it more taxes? Is it more debt? Is it both? All three options mean more inflation hitting families across America and hitting things like the front page of the New York Times, where they talk about it as a wallop to the wallet.