

Association saw the need for a more coordinated effort to train law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges in digital evidence.

They saw how the digital landscape was and still is constantly evolving and how those in law enforcement needed to keep up. But they also recognized how traditionally the largest departments with the biggest budgets were the only ones who could afford the training necessary to help their officers fight cyber and electronic crime.

So they outlined a plan to bring the training to more of our law enforcement officials and formed a unique and important partnership with the United States Secret Service to create a center for forensics education for State and law enforcement officials.

Thanks to their innovative thinking, the National Computer Forensics Institute—also known as NCFI—opened in 2008, under the roof provided by the city of Hoover, AL.

The Institute had somewhat modest beginnings—a \$4 million budget and only 264 students. But thanks to continued support from Congress here on the Hill, the Computer Forensics Institute now taps into a \$13 million annual budget to train more than 4,000 students from across the country every year.

To date, more than 19,000 State and local officers, prosecutors, and judges representing all 50 States have been trained at this institute right in the heart of Alabama. Local and State officials come from all over the country to train in Alabama and then take their newly acquired expertise back to their communities all over.

Graduates have reported utilizing their training in more than 578,000 digital forensic exams. It is clear this model is working. NCFI graduates are applying their skills to protect their communities all across the country.

The National Computer Forensics Institute focuses on teaching officials how to investigate cyber and electronic crime, always accounting—always accounting—for emerging technologies and difficult digital capabilities. But they also teach officials how to conduct forensic examinations of computers and mobile devices—a critical component of almost every violent crime investigation. Thus, the Institute gives officers and officials the tools they need to protect Americans from both cyber crime and violent crime every day.

The pandemic and our related shift to more virtual work and schooling sent cyber crime through the roof, and it continues to rise every day. In fact, according to McAfee, a computer security software company, the financial losses due to cyber crime ballooned to almost \$1 trillion in 2020, and this number could hit \$10.5 trillion by 2025 according to digital research group Cybersecurity Ventures.

But, as we know all too well, the risk isn't just financial; cyber criminals can hack pipelines and other key infra-

structure systems that are crucial to our daily lives and that pertain to our national security.

Officials trained at the NCFI are a part of our frontline defense against these attacks. The frontline—our local police officers, district attorneys, and State officials—knows the people they serve best. I want those protecting my home and my State trained to identify and combat the latest threats, and I am sure you do as well.

In 2019, when cyber criminals threatened the people of Oldsmar, FL, by attempting to poison the city's water supply, graduates from the NCFI utilized their training to secure the city's infrastructure and compile valuable evidence to keep citizens safe.

In the fall of 2021, a week and a half before schools were to open in Louisiana, leaders were forced to declare a state of emergency due to ransomware attacks on dozens of parish school districts throughout the State. Thankfully, because of their time spent in Hoover, AL, Louisiana State Police investigators, trained and equipped at the National Computer Forensics Institute, responded to the attack. The investigators dismantled the malware and assisted in rebuilding 54 school networks. All schools within the State started on time, and no ransom was paid.

Earlier this year, after a madman terrorized shoppers at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, NCFI-trained graduates were able to act quickly and support the police in their response. They used what they learned to conduct a forensic exam of a GoPro camera and a cell phone used by the shooter. That crucial video evidence is currently being used in the prosecution to ensure justice and to protect the victims and their families.

All Americans deserve to feel safe in their communities, and they deserve to feel safe online while working, learning, banking—whatever they need to do with electronic devices.

Brave men and women in law enforcement across the country are willing and able to protect Americans from all crime, including cyber crime, but they need the tools and resources to continue to do so effectively.

While some in Congress and the current administration have worked to shrink the size and strength of our law enforcement, I am unapologetic in my support for the men and women in blue. We must continue to provide the specialized resources that all of them need to do their jobs.

That is why I joined a group of colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce the National Computer Forensics Institute Reauthorization Act. This legislation, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent this week, would build on the work started in 2017 to strategically combat modern crime and set the National Computer Forensics Institute up for continued success. It also builds on that success by expanding the program's reach be-

yond just State and local officials to Federal law enforcement employees. As we know, those defending our national security at the national level should also have access to the latest digital and cyber crime training.

The National Computer Forensics Institute is an excellent example of a State's ingenuity and foresight—a group of individuals identifying a gap that needed to be filled and providing a service with national benefits. The success of the institute represents the impact State leaders and Congress can have on the entire country when we work together to support innovative and pragmatic solutions to our biggest problems. Alabama is proud of the National Computer Forensics Institute, and we are proud to provide cutting-edge training to many of America's brave law enforcement officials.

As Americans across the country face a rise in both violence and cyber crime, I applaud my colleagues for joining me to ensure our first responders have the necessary expertise and training by reauthorizing the National Computer Forensics Institute.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO GREG DOTSON

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I am delighted to rise today to salute a member of my committee staff who has made literally invaluable contributions to not just the Congress but to our Nation and not just for a couple of months or years but for literally decades.

Greg Dotson, the chief counsel for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which I am privileged to chair, will be retiring on September 30 following a distinguished career in service to this country of ours. On this occasion, I want to take note of his remarkable legacy and extraordinary service to the people of America.

As many of my colleagues will attest, true leaders in this body and true leaders elsewhere are only as good as the team that works for them. Like I say, I hire people smarter than me, and that is one of the reasons I think I have had some success. But good leaders are always looking for the best people they can find.

For many of us who are elected officials in this body and others, those teams of staff members too often toil in the background and are rarely recognized publicly for their service.

While all the members of the Environment and Public Works Committee staff that I am privileged to lead are wonderful public servants, there are sometimes rare individuals who stand out as having made an extraordinary

impact on the American people and on this country as a whole. Greg Dotson is one of those exceptional people. He has emerged as an invaluable leader in the effort to address the urgent threat of climate change and has dedicated his life to that vital calling.

Greg first joined this mission as a staffer to Congressman Henry Waxman in 1996. Greg followed Congressman Waxman to the House Oversight Committee and, later, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which Henry led.

During his nearly 20 years in the House, Greg Dotson helped lead a team that produced the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, a landmark, comprehensive climate change and energy bill that passed the House of Representatives in June of 2009.

He has worked on a number of major legislative achievements, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; the Energy Policy Act of 2005; the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, and many, many more. Greg also spearheaded vital congressional oversight and investigative efforts with environmental significance, including high-profile inquiries into political interference with climate science, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, and the energy market abuses of Enron.

After his illustrious service in the House of Representatives, Greg went on to share his wisdom and passion with young people who are eager to follow in his footsteps and protect our planet. In 2017, he became a professor in environmental policy at the University of Oregon's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center, a role which has enabled him to take the lessons of his congressional service and use them to help inform the next generation of legal scholars and environmentalists.

It was from there that he came to the Environment and Public Works Committee in early 2021, when I was becoming chairman of the committee. When we began a new Congress that year with a new Senate majority and a new President who was committed to action on addressing climate change and our Nation's infrastructure needs, while creating lots of jobs, we knew that EPW needed a seasoned, thoughtful counsel who could help guide our committee through this historic time. Greg was just the man for the job.

As chief counsel, he played an invaluable role in helping negotiate and craft the transformational bipartisan infrastructure law enacted last year, working to find common ground with our Republican colleagues and including remarkably strong climate investments in our infrastructure legislation. He also led the charge on efforts to boost electric vehicle infrastructure, clean up our air and our water, and protect communities who are facing the worst consequences of our climate crisis.

In addition, Greg played a leading role in efforts to boost the clean energy revolution for our automotive industry. He worked with me to lay out a vision for how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could adopt standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the automotive industry and eliminate tailpipe pollution from new cars by 2035.

The letter we ultimately sent to EPA Administrator Michael Regan was met with applause from both auto manufacturers and environmental groups alike. And as someone who has been here a few years, that doesn't happen every day.

A few months after we unveiled our proposal, the Biden administration followed up by announcing a new plan that adopted our recommendations for how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars, from trucks, while embracing zero-emission vehicles.

And by calling for half of the new vehicles sold in the United States to be zero-emission vehicles by the year 2030 and adopting a multipollutant approach—as we recommended—our Nation will reap major health benefits for millions of Americans while accelerating market trends to the clean cars of the future.

This was Greg's vision, and it will remain his legacy for years and years to come. And just a few weeks ago, Greg was here on the Senate floor with Mary Frances Repko, myself, and others on our team, our colleagues as well—on the floor for the crowning achievement of his decades of government service on climate crisis: the Inflation Reduction Act. Greg's countless hours of work were on that landmark bill and were critical to making possible the largest investment in climate in our Nation's history.

Let me just say that again, the Inflation Reduction Act. Greg's countless hours of work were on that landmark bill, and they were critical to making possible the largest investment—the largest investment—in climate in our Nation's history.

He didn't stop there either, going on to work tirelessly on the methane emissions reduction program—methane is many, many times more harmful than carbon dioxide with respect to climate—an initiative that will have significant impact in our efforts to combat the threat of climate change and safeguard our planet for future generations.

Throughout all of his dedicated service to our Nation and the environment, Greg has been just as committed to his family. All of us here in the Senate and, indeed, our Nation as a whole are grateful to his wife Janine and to their two children, Dahlia and Bryce. I believe they are today in Oregon, at their home in Oregon. We want to thank them, the three of them, for generously sharing with us the time and extraordinary talents of their husband and their father.

And when he wasn't here in Washington, DC, working tirelessly to make

history and improve the lives of the American people, Greg was at home in an equally important role as husband and dad. Those are maybe the two most important roles that all of us can hope for ourselves, and we also hope that he can now begin to devote even more time to them in the days ahead.

Greg's public service follows his own family legacy. His father was a Navy man, like my own dad and many of my uncles. That dedication to the greater good, to the betterment of society, which ran through his family, is a beautiful family legacy that Greg continues today.

I am deeply grateful—I am deeply grateful—for his sage counsel and know that he will continue to make this world a better place as he returns to teach at the University of Oregon.

And so, in closing, I say to Greg something that we like to say in the Navy when people do extraordinary things with their lives. We say: Bravo Zulu, Bravo Zulu. So, Greg, to you and your family, Bravo Zulu.

Thank you, my friend. I bid you fair winds and following seas as you prepare to set off on the next set of adventures that lie ahead. And I know that many Members of Congress, along with their staffs, both past and present, join me in this salute.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 7900

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion of morning business on Tuesday, October 11, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 467, H.R. 7900.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the next rollcall vote will be on Tuesday, November 14, at 5:30 p.m.

While we have accomplished a great deal so far, more than any Congress in recent memory—and we all should be proud of what we have accomplished—we still have much to do and many important bills to consider. Proceeding to the NDAA will save us valuable time, enabling us to get more done. But Members should be prepared for an extremely—underline “extremely”—busy agenda in the last 2 months of this Congress.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.