

But, in typical fashion, Russia has found a loophole in the current sanctions. It has taken a page out of Venezuela's playbook by using the purchase and sale of gold to bring in cash. The Russian Federation started buying gold to offset the devaluation of the ruble and then selling that gold on international markets for high-value currency. In short, Russia is laundering money through the gold market, and we need to put a stop to it.

That is why I introduced the Stop Russian GOLD Act with Senators KING, HASSAN, and HAGERTY to end this practice. This legislation would apply sanctions to anyone who helps Russia finance their illegal war against Ukraine by buying or selling or transporting Russian blood gold. That means anyone who buys or transports gold from Russia's central bank holdings would be the target of sanctions themselves, a deterrent for anyone considering doing this sort of business with Russia.

So we need to do everything we can to cut the financing to Putin's war machine, and this is one important way to do it, while we continue to support Ukraine in their will to repel and defeat Russian aggression and invasion of their sovereign territory.

I am glad the NDAA will build on the work we have done to strengthen our semiconductor supply chain. I know we have all learned a lot about the vulnerability of our technology, everything from our television sets to our computers to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, or even our cell phones—the threat of high-end semiconductors being cut off at supply.

And over the last couple of years, we have done big things, made major strides to bolster domestic chipmaking. As our colleagues know, this is a matter of both economic and national security. Made-in-America semiconductors, microcircuits, mean more jobs, investments, and more growth here in the United States, and a strong domestic supply means we aren't at the mercy of other countries for our most critical technology.

Congress funded the CHIPS Act earlier this summer, and we are already seeing a glimpse of the sort of investments it will bring to the United States, most notably in places like Arizona and Ohio but also in New York and in Texas and in many other places around the country.

There is more we can and should do to safeguard our critical supply chains. At this moment, Chinese companies with known connections to the Chinese Communist Party are actively selling semiconductors to companies that do business with the U.S. Government. That is a huge red flag and a major vulnerability. It puts us at risk of cyber attacks and threatens the disclosure of sensitive information.

And our reliance on these Chinese companies is a risk in and of itself. If the Chinese Communist Party wanted to starve the United States of our access to chips, it could use these compa-

nies to help in that effort. With the snap of President Xi's finger, they could cut off the supply of chips to companies that supply products to the U.S. Government.

We are well aware of the risks associated with reliance on other countries for semiconductors, which is why this has been such a big priority over the last couple of years. Now we need to ensure that the U.S. Government isn't purchasing chips from companies connected with the Chinese Communist Party.

U.S. military assets shouldn't be threatened by using these chips, which could be sabotaged by the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Republic of China. Senators SCHUMER and WICKER and I have worked together on an amendment which will address this vulnerability. Our amendment would prohibit the U.S. Government from doing business with Chinese companies with known links to the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese military. It specifically mentions three companies with known links.

This ban will be phased in, in a responsible way, to ensure it doesn't lead to paralyzing supply chain disruptions; but once it is fully implemented, it will ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent on chips from Chinese military contractors. I am glad this amendment made its way into the NDAA, and I want to thank Senator SCHUMER and Senator WICKER for working together to make this possible.

Those are just a few of the pieces of legislation contained within the National Defense Authorization Act, but it also includes other important provisions too. It includes bipartisan legislation I introduced to prohibit former members of the intelligence community from working for our foreign adversaries, including state sponsors of terrorism.

What we have seen is occasionally when people retire, they are hired by other foreign governments with the knowledge that they take along with them which came in the form of protecting the United States but could then be used by our adversaries to endanger the United States.

We also, in the NDAA, amended existing drug trafficking laws to crack down on countries like China that are known to export precursor chemicals used in deadly drugs like fentanyl, the synthetic opioid that took the lives of 71,000 Americans last year alone.

This also includes—the National Defense Authorization Act—the work product of the Environment and Public Works Committee, known as WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act; and, specifically, so far as it applies to my State of Texas, this bill authorizes the Texas Coastal Spine Project, which will safeguard communities and critical industries along the Texas gulf coast against inevitable future hurricanes.

The bill also requires the President to document, catalog, and preserve evi-

dence of war crimes committed in Ukraine so that justice will eventually be served.

I want to commend Senators INHOFE and REED for the bipartisan work that they have done on the Defense authorization bill. My only regret is it has taken us this long to get to it since it came out of the Armed Services Committee last July, but we know that they have done their best under the circumstances to include bipartisan recommendations and legislation that will keep our country strong and help maintain the peace.

We know that both Senators REED and INHOFE have fought tough headwinds getting the bill to the floor, and my hope is that tomorrow we will have a chance to vote on it, perhaps with a handful of amendments. This is a strong bill that will support our men and women in uniform and their families. It will help preserve our readiness against threats anywhere in the world and help preserve our national security.

I look forward to casting my vote in support of that bill, perhaps as early as tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I would ask consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### REMEMBERING SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise as so many of us are talking about today and reflecting upon the massacre in Newtown, CT, Sandy Hook Elementary School, 10 years ago today.

I rise for two purposes: One is to commemorate those who lost their lives that day—especially the children, 20 children, as well as 6 adults—to remember each of them today but also to commend and salute the work done by families and so many others across this country to make some measure of progress, limited though it has been, to reduce the likelihood of more gun violence across the country.

I wanted to start, though, Madam President, by reading the names and the ages of those who perished on that day at Sandy Hook Elementary School. For each individual, I will read their name and then the age they were on that day.

First, Charlotte Bacon, 6 years old; Olivia Engel, 6; Dylan Hockley, 6 years old; Madeleine Hsu, 6; Catherine Hubbard, 6; Jesse Lewis, 6; Ana Marquez-Greene, 6; James Mattioli, 6; Emilie Parker, 6; Jack Pinto, 6 years old; Noah Pozner, 6; Caroline Previdi, 6; Jessica Rekos, 6; Avielle Richman, 6 years old; Benjamin Wheeler, 6; Allison Wyatt, 6; Daniel Barden, 7 years old; Josephine Gay, 7; Chase Kowalski, 7; Grace McDonnell, 7, just age 7.

They are the children, and here are the adults who were killed on that day:

Victoria Soto, 27 years old; Rachel D'Avino, 29; Lauren Rousseau, 30; Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung, 47 years old; Anne Marie Murphy, 52; and Mary Sherlach, 56 years old.

When we remember those children and adults who were killed on that day, unfortunately for the Nation, it didn't stop there. And just as I have read those names, we could continue reading names from other cities and other years under different circumstances but all leading to the same place: death and darkness because of the scourge of gun violence all across America.

The children of Newtown, CT, came before the most recent massacre of children in a school in Uvalde, TX. There were many front-page newspaper stories in 2012 on this day—or I guess tomorrow; it would be tomorrow's newspapers—across the country. We had little, small pictures of each child and each adult.

I saved one from the Wall Street Journal. It was on my desk for a long time, and then I ultimately had it matted. But I still have one just from May of this year that is still in its newspaper form from Uvalde, TX—the same newspaper, the Wall Street Journal. But you could pick any paper in the country in 2012 or this past year. That tells us all we need to know.

So, as we remember and reflect upon that loss, I believe today it is also important to remember and commend what the parents did, what the families did, what their friends and relatives and supporters did, what volunteers did, all these years, who didn't know these families.

But let me start with the parents. These parents, of course, were consumed by grief, as anyone would be. But somehow—somehow—although they were consumed by their grief, somehow, by way of their own courage and the grace of God, they figured out a way to come together in common purpose, remembering and trying in their own way to pay tribute to their children, to form organizations which have been highly successful in making the case as to why we have to take action here on the Senate floor and not far away on the House floor, to take action on gun violence.

For example, groups like Sandy Hook Promise and Newtown Action Alliance and so many others and related groups that have sprung up got involved in the debate and made the case to legislators personally. Parents burdened by their own grief made the case to legislators. The progress has been all too slow, but because of the courage of the parents of those Sandy Hook children and because of so many other families and parents who have loved and lost, we made some progress just this past year.

But, unfortunately, in the last 10 years, it took thousands more mass shootings and hundreds of thousands of gun deaths for Congress to finally act. Let me say that again—hundreds of thousands of gun violence deaths for Congress to finally act.

This past summer, we even had Republican Senators join us—not enough but enough to pass a bill in the Senate—to pass a bill that had common-sense gun safety measures in the bill. This bill that passed this summer not only will save lives, but there is some evidence it is already doing that, by some of the data and analysis done by law enforcement.

But this bill, if anyone is being honest about it—this bill, this effort, this ongoing effort to reduce gun violence deaths, has to be just the very beginning of our work. People are still being killed and injured by gun violence every day in cities and communities all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the Nation. We owe it to the families of those 20 children and those 6 adults who died in Newtown, CT, at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and so many other places that we can name and catalog here today. Because of the length of that list, we don't have time to go through all of them today.

We have work to do to make sure that we not only pay tribute to those families who have loved and lost and done so much to help other families, but we owe so much to them in the form of passing legislation.

We have to continue to make sure that those who lost their lives on that awful day—a day that most Americans will never forget—we have to make sure that all the efforts that their parents undertook and that their family members undertook will not be in vain.

We have more work to do to pass commonsense gun safety measures. My God, a background check supported by 90 percent of the American people has not yet been passed into law, but it will be. We are going to get there here in the Senate and across the country.

So we have more work to do, but on this day, as we commemorate and reflect on those young souls we lost, we also have to be positive about what their families have done since that day, showing uncommon courage and dedication to not just the memory of their children but to the betterment of the country as a whole.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The senior Senator from Alabama.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I come to the Senate floor for what will probably be one of my last times—perhaps not my last time but close. I want to start off by thanking the people of Alabama, my home State. They have put their trust in me for more than 50 years. It is more than I could ever wish for, and this has been truly been an experience of a lifetime—something I could have never dreamed.

I came to the House 44 years ago and served 8 years as a Democrat coming from the State of Alabama. I had a good run in the U.S. House, and I appreciate that. I am grateful for that. However, I always wanted to come over here to the U.S. Senate.

In 1986, I ran for the Senate against the incumbent, Jeremiah Denton—a prominent war hero, a great man—and I won that race by 6,854 votes. It was razor, razor thin, as you can imagine.

In 1994, after years of being told to join the Republican Party and that I should be there, from President Reagan and all the way down, I decided to switch parties. I joined the Republican Party. Some people would say that I was in the vanguard of the realignment of the Republican Party in the South. That is for history to decide.

During my time in the Senate, I have been given the great opportunity of chairing four committees—four committees—something I couldn't have believed. In these positions of leadership, I have tried to influence legislation that will have a lasting impact, creating conditions to improve our country.

On the Select Committee on Intelligence, I served there for 8 years and was chairman of the full committee.

On the Banking Committee, where I am grateful to still serve after 36 years, I was chairman for three Congresses and was ranking member for three Congresses. On that committee, I worked with various Senators.

I had the opportunity, as some of you have had, to chair the Rules Committee, which is important to the running of the Senate. We worked together and instituted some very serious legislation.

But, finally, after many years of work, I chaired the Appropriations Committee. Working across the aisle in a bipartisan way, we passed and enacted the most on-time spending bills in 2018 for the first time in 22 years. We did that, I believe, by working together.

As I look back on the Senate, I think of some of the people who were here who are not with us anymore, but they have had a lasting impact on this body—the Senate.

I think of Senator Bob Dole—Presidential candidate, Vice Presidential candidate, majority leader, minority leader, friend, mentor—I thought had a lasting impact.

I think of Senator Byrd—Democrat of West Virginia, former majority leader, later chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He had strong views and was a man of the Senate.

We also had Senator Mark Hatfield—a Republican, former Governor of Oregon, distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee—whom I had the opportunity and privilege to serve with here in the Senate.

We had Senator Ted Stevens—Republican of Alaska, well known, strong views, Appropriations chairman, and a good role model for me on the committee. He spent 40 years in the Senate.