

was given a chance to make up for this awful mistake that will be a block on his record forever, Senator TUBERVILLE then responded with “What is a White nationalist?”—as if it is some great mystery.

“What is a White nationalist?” Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me, Senator?

Let me give my colleague a hint on how to define a White nationalist. The man who, just over a year ago, murdered 10 people at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, seeking to murder Black people, was a White nationalist. The insurrectionists who waved Confederate flags through the halls of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, many of them were White nationalists. And, sadly, some of those insurrectionists had military backgrounds.

Again, what is a White nationalist? How about the parade of belligerents who carried torches through the streets of Charlottesville while screaming “Jews will not replace us”? Senator TUBERVILLE, those were White nationalists.

And then he followed up by saying—I couldn’t believe he said this: “I look at a White nationalist as a Trump Republican.” Really? What the heck is happening in America?

Leader MCCONNELL cannot allow a Member of his conference to make a mockery of our military and of the Senate the way Senator TUBERVILLE has done.

If any of my Republican colleagues care whatsoever about the well-being of our military, they will denounce the Senator’s words and urge him to drop his holds.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on judges, last week was a very productive week in the Senate for judicial nominees. The Judiciary Committee reported out six more nominees for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench. We are continuing the work of confirming more outstanding judges this week, starting today.

This afternoon, we will vote to confirm Bradley Garcia as a circuit court judge for the highly important DC Circuit. After the Supreme Court, as everyone knows, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals is the most important Federal court in the country—particularly when it comes to government actions—and it takes up cases, of course, that the Supreme Court is unable to consider. The Supreme Court only takes up about 75 cases a year, and so the DC Circuit Court has many, many vital and important cases. The DC Circuit is often the final word on hugely consequential cases, particularly those involving Congress and the executive branch.

I am proud to say that, once confirmed, Bradley Garcia will make history as the first Latino ever to serve on the DC Circuit since it was established in 1893. Latinos are historically underrepresented across the Federal bench, so confirming the first-ever

Latino to the second most important court is a long overdue step toward making the Federal bench better reflect our country.

When it comes to confirming people to the Federal bench, especially to the highly important and vital DC Circuit, it is imperative to get it right, and President Biden got it right with the historic nomination of Bradley Garcia.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins and Harvard Law School, Mr. Garcia has a wealth of public and private legal experience defending civil and human rights. He clerked for Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan and rose to be a partner at a law firm before leaving to serve in the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel.

Mr. Garcia, being of generous spirit, boasts an impressive pro bono record, advocating for clients in cases implicating the rights of immigrants and criminal defendants, women’s reproductive freedoms, and free and fair elections.

So I am confident that Bradley Garcia will make an outstanding addition to the DC Circuit, joining the proud company of so many other Biden appointments who are, little by little, making our courts a better reflection of the population of the United States of America.

Mr. Garcia received a bipartisan vote out of the Judiciary Committee. I am proud to say that. I thank my Republican colleagues who voted for him, and I expect that bipartisan support to carry on to the floor this afternoon. I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with us.

Senate Democrats will continue making judicial confirmations one of our top priorities moving forward. We have made remarkable progress in our work to confirm good mainstream and diverse judges under President Biden, and we will keep working toward that goal this week and beyond.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week is National Police Week, a time to honor the service and sacrifice of America’s law enforcement officers. These brave men and women have chosen a difficult and often dangerous career. They have dedicated their lives to protecting the rest of us, defending our civil liberties and protecting our cities and neighborhoods. That decision requires tremendous courage and sacrifice by both the officer and their family.

We have recently been reminded of the dangers they face every day. Just a week ago, shoppers wandered in and

out of a busy outdoor mall in Allen, TX, near Dallas. It was a beautiful, seemingly normal Saturday afternoon until the day took a tragic turn. A man pulled up in his vehicle, got out of his car with multiple weapons, and started firing.

Fortunately, out of this terrible tragedy, fortunately, an officer was already on the scene for an unrelated call. He did what he was trained to do and what his conscience told him to do and ran immediately toward the danger. He didn’t hesitate to put his own life on the line in order to stop the shooter and save countless lives.

The shooter killed eight innocent people and wounded seven more. Had this brave officer not been on the scene, it is difficult to imagine how many more casualties would have been incurred, how many more lives would have been lost.

The shooter was carrying multiple weapons and had five additional guns in his car. If not for the quick action of that Allen police officer, more families would be making funeral arrangements today.

Stories like this underscore the dangers our officers take in their daily lives. A routine call or a traffic stop can turn deadly without warning. And these men and women still lace up their boots and put on a uniform each morning.

Each year for National Police Week, we honor the law enforcement community, naturally, and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. One of the most striking reminders of that sacrifice is the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which sits along the National Mall here in Washington, DC.

It is a powerful tribute for the State, Federal, and local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and features marble walls, filled with more than 23,000 names. Each of those names represents an American hero. And, sadly, the names of 67 Texans will be added this year.

These officers gave their lives in service to their communities and our country. And while there is nothing we can do to console the families of those heroes, we can do more to support their brothers and sisters, still in blue.

Over the last couple of years, members of our law enforcement community have faced an onslaught of new challenges. From the pandemic to dangerous “defund the police” rhetoric to baseless attacks, the men and women in blue who keep us safe are subject to tremendous risks and strain.

They have watched as progressive politicians have made calls to fund the police and attempted to villainize the very heroes who keep us safe.

I am proud to say I have never been ashamed to support the men and women of our law enforcement community. I will always proudly stand with them. In the face of increasing crime rates and growing concerns about public safety, Congress must do more to

support and empower our men and women in blue.

Last year, we made some progress. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program was reauthorized through a bipartisan bill I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, the Senator from Minnesota. We have already seen some real-world impact these grants have made in communities across Texas. And this will promote even greater collaboration between law enforcement and the mental health providers that they serve alongside.

We also took a big step toward improving training for officers by passing the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act, which was signed into law by President Biden last December. This new law will ensure that officers have the skills they need to navigate and defuse potentially dangerous situations, particularly involving those undergoing a mental health crisis. I am proud of the bipartisan progress we have made, and I hope we can build upon it more this year.

In honor of National Police Week, I introduced the Back the Blue Act to strengthen laws that protect our officers. This legislation sends a strong and powerful message to the more than 800,000 officers serving our country—a message that they are supported and that violence against them will never be tolerated.

The Back the Blue Act adds stiff mandatory penalties and makes it a Federal crime to kill—or attempt to kill—a law enforcement officer, a Federal judge, or a federally funded public safety officer. It also makes it a Federal crime to assault a law enforcement officer.

As I have said, these men and women put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe, and we must make it absolutely clear that violence against them will not be tolerated.

This legislation was endorsed by leading law enforcement organizations like the National Association of Police Organizations and the Fraternal Order of Police and is cosponsored by 39 Senators, so far.

I hope other colleagues will support this bill and show law enforcement across the country that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them.

There is another piece of legislation that I hope will pass soon called the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program. This is a reauthorization of an existing national nationwide partnership between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors that aims to reduce violent crime, particularly gun crime.

It achieves that goal through data-driven, evidence-based, and trauma-informed practices that have proven to reduce crime rates. Since it was first launched two decades ago, Project Safe Neighborhoods has helped reduce violent crime in large cities and small towns all across this country.

A study in 2013 found that the program was associated with more than a

13-percent decrease in violent crimes in cities and a high rate of program participation.

Given the growing concerns and already serious concerns about crime in our country, there could not be a more important time to make this program better, stronger, and more effective.

This is among the range of bills the Senate should consider to pass and support law enforcement, including the Federal Law Enforcement Service Weapon Purchase Act that would allow retired officers to purchase their service weapons that would otherwise be destroyed.

This bipartisan legislation would prevent waste by allowing agencies to recover the value of these weapons. This bill has been endorsed by multiple organizations that represent law enforcement officers, and I hope we can advance it this year.

I am also a proud cosponsor of other bipartisan bills that were introduced by Senate colleagues. Senator PETERS from Michigan and I introduced the Strong Communities Act, with the goal of improving trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

I am also a cosponsor of the Recruit and Retain Act, led by Senator FISCHER of Nebraska and Senator COONS of Delaware. It aims to alleviate the personnel shortages that are being felt in police departments across the Nation and ensures that America's police forces are well staffed.

I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, will advance some of these bills later this week and send a strong message that the U.S. Senate supports America's police officers.

Every day, I am grateful for the service and sacrifice of our law enforcement officers in Texas and across the country. And that includes the Capitol Police that keeps this building and Capitol Hill safe, protecting not only the people who work here but also people who visit here.

In honor of National Police Week, we honor the brave men and women who protect us. We pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. And we commit to doing everything in our power to ensure that they have all the resources they need to keep our people safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we have really heard quite a bit over the past few weeks and especially this past weekend about this administration and

their decision to do away with title 42, and I would take this opportunity to remind my Democratic colleagues that President Biden himself admitted that our southern border will be, and I quote him, "chaotic for a while" post-title 42. So the expectation is that this will create chaos, and they know it, but they are doing it anyway.

In the days right before title 42 was terminated, we were already seeing unprecedented chaos along our southern border. Again, they knew it. Chaos was coming, but they were going to do it anyway because it serves their purposes.

Now, here is some of the chaos that has actually happened at that border. These are last week's numbers. They are not my numbers. They are not Republican numbers. They are Border Patrol's numbers. This is what this administration is doing to the communities that are along that southern border.

Border Patrol reported last week 68,000 apprehensions, and they seized hundreds of pounds of narcotics, including 56 pounds of fentanyl. Bear in mind, 1 little gram, one little touch is enough to kill. We are all hearing "One pill will kill." Yet think about 56 pounds of that coming in. What would that do to your community?

At the same time, on top of the 68,000 who were apprehended, there were 16,000 "got-aways" whom they could see on surveillance video, but they could not get to them. Those are the known "got-aways." So they cross the border, and they go running into the country.

There are also the unknown "got-aways." As the Presiding Officer knows, as Border Patrol is out, as they are going through their day, many times they find evidence of the people who have crossed where they couldn't see them on video. They weren't wanting to be apprehended. Those are the really bad, bad, bad guys who are bringing in more drugs, more terrorists, more gangs into this country.

In the past 72 hours alone, we have seen three agents assaulted. These are our Border Patrol agents. They are being assaulted. Bear in mind, the cartels—global organizations—the cartels are in charge of that border on the Mexico side. So three of our agents have been assaulted. There were almost 15,000 more apprehensions in 72 hours and more than 4,300 "got-aways" who evaded capture.

As I said, these are not my numbers. They are not Republican numbers. These are the numbers of the Border Patrol. They are the Biden administration's numbers. They know that they are creating chaos, that they are making life difficult, that they are making the job of Border Patrol harder every single day, but it serves their purpose, so they do it anyway.

They know exactly what is happening and what will happen if they don't regain control of that border: