

With that, I am going to respond to the objection by my esteemed colleague Senator TUBERVILLE.

The senior Senator from Alabama is preventing this body from confirming dozens of key promotions. We do know who these military promotions are. They have been serving proudly and with distinction in our military. They are not unknown to us. They deserve their promotions.

The Senator is threatening our military readiness and our national security, and we can confirm these nominations right now if the Senator ends his blockade. Every day—every day—these holds persist, every day the Senator persists, he risks the U.S. national security and he risks our military readiness. Because we lack officials in key posts across the military at this critical time, we know we need to do this en bloc. It is what we have been doing.

These men and women, serving proudly, are ready for their promotions, ready to take their next duty step.

I just want to make one point before I go. Make no mistake, our adversaries—they are watching this very closely. Russia, China, Iran, and others—they understand how this hurts our military, and they will look and find a way to take advantage of this.

So I am deeply disappointed that the Senator is continuing to object. We hope he will reconsider.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come here today to talk about Police Week, but before I do—I had the opportunity to listen to my colleague from Nevada push an important point here, and it is not lost on me and the general public watching this, thinking how crazy this argument is, at the end of the day. I just heard my good colleague Senator TUBERVILLE basically say he is not opposed—he actually would vote for the individual Senator ROSEN just said she was asking him to support, their promotion. He said he would do it.

The only thing that is holding him up is that, instead of what we have traditionally done in this body through unanimous consent for promotions for the men and women in our military, which is a procedure we do all the time, he is forcing it to go to a floor vote. It makes no sense. It makes no sense to me. It makes no sense to the American public who are watching this and clearly is an abuse of the use of the powers we have as Senators in this body.

So I just have to point that out because this is what we are dealing with, unfortunately, at times when the American public just wants us to work together to move forward. The men and women in the military seeking promotions—that is what this is about, and we should be supporting them because they are the ones standing guard, protecting us and our national security.

So I just have to point that out, that the craziness sometimes in this body I see is just nonsensical.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. President, let me talk about another thing that is so important that is happening this week and across the country but particularly here in Washington, DC: Police Week.

The American public watching this, if you have not been to the police memorial in Judiciary Square, you should because every single law enforcement agency in this country is recognized, unfortunately, at this memorial by a death, and it is the only way we as the American public can stand up and say: We see you, we hear you, and we know you are standing guard, and we care, and we want to show respect not only for you, who made the ultimate sacrifice, but for your family and your friends and everyone else to have the ability to come together to recognize the men and women who serve in our military and make that ultimate sacrifice.

As we go about our daily lives, our police officers are the ones protecting us and our families. They know that their job puts their lives in danger. Their families know that, every day when their loved one leaves for work, they may not come home. It is a sacrifice for the individual getting up and leaving that house, and it is a sacrifice for the loved ones who watch that individual leave.

Why do I know that? Because I am married—25 years—to a Federal law enforcement officer, now retired. I remember in the middle of the night when he was on call and he got that call, his boots by the side of the bed, and he slips his feet into them and walks out that door. Every spouse, every loved one who sees them leave has always in the back of their mind: Are they going to come home?

So this is important, that we recognize the men and women who are representing and protecting our communities every single day.

I am honored to have worked with Nevada's police officers throughout my career. I have worked with police departments across my State to crack down on crime, to prosecute offenders, and to keep Nevadans safe. Not only have I worked in my State as a prosecutor, but I have worked here in the District of Columbia in the U.S. Attorney's Office as a prosecutor.

I have witnessed the hard work and dedication of our police officers firsthand, whether you are a State police officer, a local city or county police officer, or a Federal officer. I have worked alongside them. I know what they do day in and day out, and that is why my role in the Senate will always be to fight for our law enforcement.

It has been my priority to listen to the needs of police departments throughout Nevada, both big and small, and throughout our Federal law enforcement Agencies to ensure that I am doing everything I can to get them

what they need to protect our communities, and that includes securing funding for more resources for improved technology and, yes, better training for our officers.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

Last year, alongside Senator GRASSLEY, I was proud to make sure that Congress passed the biggest increase in Byrne JAG grant funding in the last 10 years.

To help put an end to tragic law enforcement suicides, I introduced and passed legislation to increase data collection on suicide and support peer counseling programs that can improve police officers' mental health.

While these investments are so crucial to ensuring our officers are prepared for the job, far too many smaller police departments just can't compete with their larger counterparts for resources. I know this. I know this from our law enforcement agencies in my rural community in Nevada. The Presiding Officer knows this as well. Our law enforcement communities in our rural areas, which are much smaller, have to really fight for resources that they need. Over 90 percent of police departments nationally, including several in Nevada, have fewer than 200 full-time officers.

That is why I have worked with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce the Invest to Protect Act. This legislation would set aside grant funding specifically for smaller local police departments, including our Tribal law enforcement, to ensure they can access the resources they need to keep our families safe.

Police officers in Northern and Southern Nevada have told me about how hard it is to do their jobs when they are short on personnel. They are stretched too thin, and that makes it harder for them to protect our communities and their own lives. The Invest to Protect Act will help these police departments with recruitment and retention so they have enough officers to serve their communities. These are important jobs that make good careers in public service.

So in honor of Police Week and the sacrifices our officers have made to protect us, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me and Senator GRASSLEY in supporting the Invest to Protect Act.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Nevada.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, this week marks National Police Week, a time to recognize and honor the courageous work of men and women who keep our communities safe. These heroes put their lives on the line to protect our communities.

And I want to give special thanks to law enforcement officers across Nevada who serve every day with honor and integrity. And I want Nevada police officers to know: I have your back. We

have your back. With the Presiding Officer, my senior Senator from Nevada, we have your back.

That means working to see that our law enforcement officers have access to resource, training, and recruitment support—the kinds of things they need to do their job safely.

And we should also honor the men and women who have fallen in the line of duty protecting our communities. These men and women were heroes. They left behind family and friends and colleagues and communities they served and helped to protect—men and women like Las Vegas Metro Police Officer Truong Thai, who was tragically shot and killed this past October while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

Officer Thai, who came to this country as a child from Vietnam, was a pillar of our community. He was deeply devoted to his family. He was an experienced patrol officer who trained new recruits over the course of his career.

Officer Thai has been described as a mentor to his colleagues. One said: He “did the job”—“did the job”—“for all the right reasons.”

Officer Thai was also a friend to so many, a consummate family man. And when he wasn’t directly serving the community in uniform, he was often coaching volleyball or out in the water, boating with his family and friends.

And 7 months since he was murdered, Officer Thai continues to be missed by his loved ones and the entire Las Vegas community, and no one will forget him and his service and his kindness.

Unfortunately, Officer Thai is not the only one. Far too many officers have been killed in the line of duty. So, today, I am also thinking of these fallen officers and all of those who died in the line of duty in Nevada.

To honor their lives and bravery, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of names of Nevada police officers who recently passed way and whose names have been added to the Nevada Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and the James D. Hoff Peace Officer Memorial.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Officer Philip Carl Closs, Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Officer Ed Contreras, Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Officer Ray Edward East, Walker River Paiute Tribal Police Department. Special Deputy Marshal Jose E. Gomez, U.S. Marshals Service. Senior Federal Air Marshal Shawn P. Hennessee, Department of Homeland Security. Sergeant Douglas Michael King, Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Bailiff Gerald Raymond “Bear” Smith, Pahrump Justice Court. Detective Justin Terry, Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Officer Truong Thanh Thai, Las Vegas Metro Police Department.

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, these officers—these brave officers—made the ultimate sacrifice for our communities, and they deserve our eternal gratitude.

I will continue to work with my colleagues here in the Senate on solutions

that support our police departments, the officers who serve, and, always, their families.

I yield.

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

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

U.S. SPACE COMMAND

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Madam President, the Space Command has been in the news lately. A final decision may be forthcoming soon, but the reported rationale behind that decision is misguided. There are rumors out there that ignore the fact that this basing process is about a variety of issues. But, really, there is only be about one thing: What is in the best interest of our national security?

The reports focus on the draconian laws of Alabama and Senator TUBERVILLE’s decision to bar military promotions. I have always been a strong advocate for reproductive rights, especially among servicemembers, and I vehemently disagree with Senator TUBERVILLE and his decision to hold nearly 200 general and flag officer nominations hostage, a hold that directly affects military readiness.

These nominees are waiting to take their new commands, move their families, and carry out their missions that they were trained to lead. They need to sell and leave the homes they are in. They can’t buy new homes. They can’t do anything until their promotions are confirmed.

These are important issues, but we can’t conflate these issues with the Space Command for the simple reason that our military should never be politicized. Senator TUBERVILLE wants to make this about politics. Senator BENNET and I want to make it about national security.

And space capabilities are absolutely essential to our national security. Whether you are talking about GPS for ground-based operations or secure communications systems for maritime navigation, every single domain in which the United States acts in the name of national defense, be it on land, air, cyber or maritime—you name it—depends on our ability to operate in space.

The entity responsible for coordinating these operations is U.S. Space Command, which was first established in Colorado Springs back in 1985 and formally stood up as a full combatant command in 2019.

Over the past 3½ years, the brilliant team at Space Command headquarters in Colorado have set the standard for U.S. expertise in space. They are building out our understanding of the global threat landscape, investing in our response capabilities, and hitting keen readiness milestones, including reach-

ing initial operating capability back in August of 2021.

This April, Space Command took another giant step forward when General Dickinson, who is in charge of leading these efforts, announced that U.S. Space Command will reach full operational capability by the end of the year at its current location in Colorado Springs—full operational capability. In other words, Space Command is on the verge of achieving full mission readiness in record time. That is an incredible achievement, and full credit goes to General Dickinson and the men and women on the frontlines of U.S. space leadership.

General Dickinson’s announcement underscores just how dangerous it would be to rubberstamp former President Trump’s reckless political decision to move Space Command from its current location in Colorado. Moving headquarters requires that we build new facilities, install secure communications infrastructure, and relocate or rehire our existing workforce.

Congress has never received an estimate for how much this would cost, even before factoring in the impact on national security. That is neither efficient nor strategic. It would take years—years—to replicate the milestone of full operational capability, and every single member of this body knows that we simply don’t have that luxury.

We don’t have that kind of time. We don’t have years while Russia is waging a brutal and ruthless war in Ukraine. We don’t have years while China is developing advanced hypersonic weapons and threatening to invade Taiwan. We don’t have years while Iran and North Korea are attempting to undermine our cyber security.

Right now, the United States is being challenged from every angle. Now is not the time to tie our hands and announce to our rivals that we are intentionally stepping back from being fully operational in space. It is not the time to announce to the world that we will let partisan politics interfere with our military decision making.

The arrival of U.S. Space Command on the cusp of reaching full operational capability in Colorado Springs should be received by the entire Senate as a remarkable achievement, one that strengthens our national security and one that expands our military might.

Space command’s formal establishment as a full combatant command in 2019 came not a moment too soon. Just over 2 years later, Russia conducted a direct-ascent anti-satellite weapons test, which created thousands of pieces of debris that Space Command has been tracking ever since.

A few months later, information gathered by U.S. satellites helped the intelligence community to sound the alarm as Putin was amassing thousands of troops on Russia’s border with Ukraine.