

our most basic responsibilities: keeping America safe, keeping America fed, and keeping the lights on.

Our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee intend to fund the Federal Government through regular order. The Armed Services Committee has an urgent responsibility to set the Senate's national security priorities so we can face growing threats and fund our Armed Forces accordingly.

And also this year, the Agriculture Committee has to pass the farm bill. This legislation is the cornerstone of the government's approach to helping growers feed America. It includes essential provisions that support farmers, create good-paying jobs, and strengthen rural communities.

In my home State of Kentucky, nearly 75,000 farms help keep dinner plates full and grocery stores stocked throughout the entire country. But thanks to endless redtape from unelected bureaucrats and partisan foot-dragging here in Washington, it is more difficult than ever to be a farmer in Kentucky.

Washington Democrats' runaway inflation has bogged down small family farms. With production costs on the rise, the Department of Agriculture projects that net farm income will decline by—listen to this—20 percent in 2023.

Naturally, farm families are looking to Congress to deliver much needed help and stability. In Kentucky, farmers are stalling investments and taking on unforeseen risks as they wait for Washington to make up its mind. Farmers in Kentucky and across the country deserve certainty from Congress so they can plan for the future.

With less than 4 months to go until many current farm bill provisions expire, time is running out. That is why Congress needs to do its job and get this legislation across the finish line swiftly.

Last week, negotiations between a Democratic President and a Republican Speaker allowed the Senate to take an important step toward fiscal sanity and avert economic catastrophe. In the coming months, we will need further collaboration to produce legislation that puts farmers first and secures our food supply. Senate Republicans stand ready to do our part.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANDY QUINN

Now, Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, I am very sorry to have to conclude my remarks today by bidding farewell to an integral member of my staff, my chief speechwriter and strategic communications director, Andy Quinn.

Five and a half years ago, Andy arrived in my office with one of the sharpest minds and sharpest pens in town. It has been my great good fortune to have him on my team longer than anyone might reasonably hope to keep such a talent tied down.

Andy's background made him a unique candidate for the job, to say the least. He was the exceedingly rare

breed who had come out of 4 years at an elite New England liberal arts college with his conservative principles even stronger. He had experience on the campaign trail and in the cloisters of professional scholarship, but he hadn't spent a day working on Capitol Hill.

I had a hunch that Andy's evident hunger, enthusiasm, and sheer brain power would have him adapt to life in the Senate in no time. And, boy, was I right. It would be no exaggeration to say that he will depart more fluent in the workings of this institution than folks who have been around here twice as long.

Andy has proven his impressive ability to wear multiple hats. He has lent both a finely tuned instinct for political strategy and a bottomless—bottomless—appetite for nuanced policy. And, in the process, he has become a plumb line for my entire team on both long-range, big-picture ideas and pressing day-to-day decisions. This young man has an incredible ability to cut straight to the essence of the topic at hand and ask the sort of questions that help all of us approach big issues with clarity and with confidence.

When Andy is at the table, we know we will get clear, honest, unvarnished counsel. These strengths have been extraordinarily valuable over an eventful past 5 years: three Supreme Court confirmations, two Presidential impeachments, and a once-in-a-century pandemic.

During the first weeks of 2021, in particular, some of the most important conversations I had were with Andy, as I planned my response to the rioters who tried and failed to interrupt the certification of an election, and as I prepared to cast my vote as an impeachment juror. Through it all, Andy's zeal for worthy fights has helped me, his colleagues, and our entire conference meet career-defining moments with strength and grace.

He has taken 5½ years of incredibly varied, sensitive, and high-profile responsibilities in stride. He has demonstrated pitch-perfect instincts and wisdom beyond his years. And, somehow, alongside Andy's book smarts is room for a razor-sharp sense of humor and plenty of opinions on the prospects of his Chicago Cubs.

But just as noticeable as Andy's intellect is his humility. He took every step to the front office coffee pot as an opportunity to get to know his youngest colleagues and learn about their interests. For that matter, one of the only outward signs of the enormous workload Andy has shouldered has been the coffee cup he has carried, which his colleagues say has grown larger over the years.

Of course, that could just as likely be a symptom of the fact that Andy has become a proud father not once, not twice, but three times during his Senate tenure.

For all of his work as a fellow steward of this institution and a passionate

defender of right-of-center principles, we know that Andy's truest devotions are to his beloved wife Amy, to the deep faith they share, and to the wonderful family they are raising together.

It is no secret that the demands of the Senate schedule are borne not only by Senators and our staff but, in a unique way, by their families as well. As Andy prepares to write an exciting new chapter professionally, I understand that the oldest of his three sons, at the ripe old age of 4½, has expressed particular excitement at getting to see his dad a little more often. Even the world's greatest deliberative body can't compete with all that.

So I would like to leave Andy with my sincere thanks for pouring his immense talents into our shared mission for these past 5½ years and my congratulations on a job very well done.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

#### REMEMBERING EDWARD WRZESINSKI

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today, I want to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and Vietnam war veteran who recently passed, Edward Merle Wrzesinski.

Ed was a native son of Montana. He was born on the October 27, 1945, in Roundup. He was raised on the Wrzesinski family homestead in the Snowy Mountains, where he spent his time breaking horses, reading books, and doodling the beautiful Eastern Montana landscape around him—a landscape that would continue to shape his life forever.

Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, Ed left Montana to serve his country in the Navy during the Vietnam war. During the war, he served on the USS *Ranger* aircraft carrier from 1963 to 1966, where he worked in the print shop.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Ed moved to Seattle and entered the print business. Eventually, he took his printing career to San Francisco, where he opened up his own printing company, called Barbary Coast Press, and he met his wife Debra.

After a stint in Hawaii, Ed and Debra moved back to Montana, settling in Twin Bridges, where they started their family. Here they raised their daughters Tess and Beth and founded Tobacco Root Graphics, an iconic line of western watercolor greeting cards inspired by Ed's childhood in the Snowy Mountains in Eastern Montana.

Ed also went on to drive buses for the Twin Bridges school district and later for Bozeman's Streamline city bus services after they made their move to Bozeman.

Ed loved his family. He especially liked spending time with his daughters. Together, they would work on art projects, attend sporting events, and watch movies.

Ed also loved reading good books. He liked golf. And, as all good Montanans, he liked to trout fish. On a beautiful Montana summer evening, you could find him at the river with a fishing pole and a box of fried chicken.

Ed passed away on May 4, earlier this year. He had fought a long battle with prostate cancer, a condition directly related to his exposure to Agent Orange during his service in the Vietnam war. While he fought long and hard, I am grateful he was able to get the healthcare and the benefits he needed in the last years of his life through the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which we were able to get across the finish line here in the Senate for heroes like Ed. And we did that in 2019.

Today, it is my honor to commemorate his service and life as an outstanding Montanan. His legacy will live on through his family and his daughters.

I am especially honored to have his daughter Tess working on my Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee staff, where she serves veterans in Montana and across the Nation and was awarded the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans' Unsung Hero Award for her tireless work for veterans.

Beth is also following in his footsteps at the University of Montana, where she is studying digital filming.

So on behalf of myself and a grateful Nation, I commend Mr. Ed Wrzesinski and extend our deepest appreciation to him and his family. He is a part of the fabric that makes Montana the "Last Best Place," and he will be sorely missed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ONLINE SAFETY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this week, Apple unveiled its latest innovation, the Vision Pro. It is a mixed-reality headset that the company claims will blend together our virtual and physical worlds. Now, if you have seen this device, you might think it looks like an overpriced pair of ski goggles, but the implications for this technology are remarkable.

Think about how far we have come in a few short decades. Thirty years ago, hardly anyone owned a cell phone, and even fewer were familiar with the concept of the World Wide Web; but, since then, everything has changed. We have gone from clunky desktop computers to smart phones and smart watches and now a headset that will transform your living room into a virtual playground—a virtual playground. Think about that. You can share it with just about anyone in the world—anyone—even potential sexual predators.

And therein lies the problem. In the face of an unprecedented wave of technological innovation, one thing has remained the same: Our Nation's online safety laws are stuck in the last cen-

ture. Over the past three decades, Congress has given tech and social media companies free rein to police themselves, and they have failed. Now our children are paying the price for these failures. It is time for Congress to step up and protect them.

Today, more than one out of three teenagers say they use social media "almost constantly." That is by design. Big Tech giants and online platforms, powered by advanced algorithms, are capturing the minds and eyeballs of our kids and grandkids. And the more our children scroll, the more these platforms rake in profits.

Now, of course, social media can benefit everyone, including young people. They can learn new skills and hobbies and really connect with valuable friends. But as most parents, grandparents, and public health experts will tell you, social media has a dark side.

Last month, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an extraordinary warning—the first of its kind—to parents across America. Dr. Murthy said that social media can "have a profound risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents." From anxiety and depression to body image issues, social media is exacerbating the youth mental health crisis in America.

But there is another far more disturbing part of this story because, when it comes to online platforms like Instagram or TikTok, only a few taps and clicks stand between our children and online predators who hope to exploit them. Just yesterday, the Wall Street Journal published a report on what they described as a "vast pedophile network" that has been thriving on Instagram for years—years. According to the report, Instagram not only hosts photos and videos of children being sexually exploited; it actively promotes the despicable content to other users.

Predators even connect with one another through a set of grotesque hash tags that I will not repeat on the Senate floor, and the worst of these predators try to target new, unsuspecting victims and persuade them to share explicit images of themselves.

Let me tell you about one of the victims. His name was James Woods. Last year James, who, at 17, was getting ready to graduate from high school, died by suicide after being targeted in a scheme known as "sextortion." In James' case, he was contacted through Instagram by a user claiming to be a young woman. The conversation quickly turned sexual, and the user asked James to share explicit images of himself. Unfortunately, he complied.

Moments later, he received another message, this time with a threat: Send me \$6,000, or else those images will be sent to everyone you know.

James was terrified. He tried to reason with this predator by sending him a \$100 gift card, but the threats continued. He received 200 messages in a single day, some threatening to hurt him

or kill his family. One message read: "You might as well end it now."

Soon after, James' father arrived home and discovered his son's lifeless body. James had his entire life ahead of him. He was a star on the school track team. He hoped to pursue a career in law enforcement. But now he is gone.

You would think that Instagram, the platform through which James was exploited, would bear some responsibility—some responsibility—for this horrifying tragedy. After all, this predator used Instagram to contact James, solicit explicit images, and then threaten his life. But you would be wrong. Under our existing laws of the United States—namely, section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, written nearly 30 years ago—platforms like Instagram have near total immunity from being held legally accountable for this type of atrocity. That has to change.

Earlier this year, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I pledged that we would take vigorous action to hold Big Tech accountable and stop the online exploitation of children. As part of this effort, I introduced a bill, the Stop CSAM Act. CSAM stands for "child sexual abuse material."

This legislation would create a civil remedy against any online platform that facilitates the exchange of child sexual abuse materials. In other words, if the Stop CSAM Act were law today, James' parents would be able to take legal action against Instagram for failing to fulfill their basic responsibility to protect their customers.

Importantly, my Stop CSAM Act is one of five pieces of legislation that has been reported out of the Judiciary Committee during this Congress to stop the exploitation of children online. Every single one of these pieces of legislation was reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee by a unanimous vote—all five.

Mr. President, you personally, and my colleagues, take a look at the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. That is the most amazing display of political extremes—right and left and center, for that matter—that you will find in Congress. All members of the committee voted in favor of these five pieces of legislation to protect our kids from what is going on on the cell phones across America.

We had testimony from parents—one sad story after another of children who, because of sextortion, bullying, harassment, goading, took their own lives. The mothers sat in the front row, each holding a color photo, a school photo, of their kids. With tears in their eyes, they begged us to do something to protect these kids and to protect America from this exploitation.

When I read about tragedies like the death of James Woods, it is clear: We shouldn't waste another minute. I believe that we should call this measure to the floor of the Senate immediately. There is no reason to wait. In fact, there is a danger if we do.