

this exploitation of these migrant children continue when the U.S. government who placed them with these sponsors doesn't even know where they are, whether they are getting a good education, whether their healthcare needs are being attended to, or whether they are being recruited in gangs, sex-trafficked, exploited, neglected?

I started out by saying I don't believe the Biden administration cares; but I do believe Members of this body care. And it is within our power to change it. That is a choice, in and of itself.

Now, some of my colleagues like the chairman of the Judiciary Committee said, yeah, we need to get together and talk about comprehensive immigration reform, but we have had those conversations the entire time I have been in the U.S. Senate. We cannot leverage these innocent children for other unrelated measures.

The same problem with the fentanyl and drugs coming across the border. People say, well, we need to do something. Well, we can't do it until we do comprehensive immigration reform. The DACA population, the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrival, these young people who came here as children who now are in a box canyon not of their making because President Obama overreached and created a program without working with Congress.

Each of those problems, I think, deserves to be addressed on its own merits. But you can't tell me that you are serious about solving the problem if you say, well, we can't do this, we can't fix those problems until we deal with all of the immigration issues as a whole, because I don't see that happening anytime soon. Meanwhile, these children will be languishing, being exploited, and worse.

The young people who are uncertain about their future because they received this Deferred Action on Childhood Arrival, but now it has been held illegal, unconstitutional by a Federal judge in the Southern District of Texas—and the families that are grieving because their loved ones took a pill they thought was relatively innocuous, but it was contaminated with fentanyl, and their son or daughter lost their life—do you want to tell these people to keep waiting? Just wait until we pass a massive immigration reform bill containing other matters. You wait. They shouldn't have to wait. And we shouldn't let the neglect and the willful blindness of the Biden administration prevent us from doing our duty, Republican and Democratic Senators alike. It is within our power to do it. But doing nothing is a choice too. And I hope that is not a choice we will make.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO KENT SALAZAR

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico, there is a stunning 13-mile-wide crater that was created by a collapsed supervolcano. What is now known as the Valles Caldera National Preserve is home to a deep grassy valley, volcanic cinder cones, crystal-clear trout streams, and some of the best elk habitat in North America. The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of the most beautiful places on the planet, but for many, many decades most New Mexicans could only peer into its edge from the side of a road. The entire Caldera was privately owned. That has since changed.

In 2000, we used the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase the Valles Caldera, but it took nearly a decade and a half after that to see truly meaningful public access.

One New Mexican deserves an enormous amount of credit for unlocking the Valles Caldera and its scenic hiking trails, elk hunting, and its trout fishing. That New Mexican is Kent Salazar.

As a member of the New Mexico Game Commission, Kent sought to undo a system that allowed wealthy and out-of-state hunters to purchase greater access to elk hunting than everyday New Mexicans or Americans. In the face of big money opposition, Kent pushed to establish a fair and equal lottery system that honored the principle of "one person, one chance," and he succeeded.

I have personally harvested two elk in the Caldera thanks in part to the changes that Kent made. Then, after President Obama appointed Kent to lead the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees, he quickly became a champion for transitioning the Valles Caldera to a National Park Service managed preserve.

This change has expanded public access and made it possible for many more New Mexicans—and for visitors from around the world—to experience this incredible landscape. It also protected the public's fair access to both hunting and fishing, and none of this would have been possible without the determination, leadership, and vision of my friend, Kent Salazar.

A lifelong New Mexican, Kent has dedicated himself to the idea that the outdoors are for everyone, not just for those with wealth or family connections. And from an early age, Kent found that time spent outdoors brought him a sense of renewal. And ever since, he has worked to make sure that all New Mexicans and all Americans can build a connection with nature.

For 20 years as a public administrator, Kent worked to make our land and air and water safer and healthier at the city of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department.

An avid hunter, angler, and outdoorsman, Kent also breathed new life into the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

The legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold founded the organization that became the New Mexico Wildlife Federation more than a century ago. But when Kent took the reins, the organization had no staff and no real driving mission. Even so, Kent saw the incredible potential if he could reinvigorate the organization; and, that, he did.

Under Kent's leadership, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation grew its membership dramatically and hired professional staff. Today, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation is one of the most influential grassroots organizations in our State. The organization has become much more active and much more effective in protecting iconic New Mexico landscapes, including the Valle Vidal, the Sabinoso Wilderness, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

The impact of Kent's leadership has also grown nationally. Three years ago, Kent was elected unanimously to serve as the chairman of the National Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors. With the National Wildlife Federation, Kent helped to lead the charge to secure permanent and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and pass historic investments in landscape restoration as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

And he is still helping us today as we work to pass the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Kent also helped to found the Green Leadership Trust and Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors, or HECHO. Through all of this, I have especially appreciated Kent's kindness and passion, his pragmatism and knowledge, his devoted focus on making the conservation movement more inclusive and mentoring the next generation of conservation leaders, the way he keeps an open mind, listens to others, and always seems to drive the whole room in a more productive direction.

Kent's name might not make it to the newspaper that often, but it should. He is one of the most effective conservation leaders of our time. Kent once said:

[I]f we get the right people involved, we can accomplish a lot, and help our communities and our future, our children.

He is absolutely right. We are all better off because Kent is involved, serving our communities, our future, and our children.

I am extraordinarily grateful to have worked with and learned from Kent for all these years, and I am honored to call him a friend.

Kent, we cannot thank you enough for everything that you have done to inspire New Mexicans and to care for our Land of Enchantment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

INDIA

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Narendra Modi, the esteemed Prime Minister of the Republic

of India. Next week, we will be honored to have him address a joint meeting of Congress underscoring the significance of the relationship between the United States and India.

The bond between India and the United States is not just an alliance, it is a strategic and global partnership. Our two nations' relationship is built on the strong foundation of shared values—democracy, freedom, and respect for the rule of law.

India and the United States have long recognized the power of collaboration and fostering peace, prosperity, and global stability. United States-India diplomatic relations have only grown since India gained its independence 75 years ago.

In the face of global challenges ranging from education to energy to agriculture and health, Prime Minister Modi has worked with the United States to address these issues, and continues to work toward solutions that benefit not just our countries but the entire world.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Washington, DC, is an occasion to celebrate that progress and to reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen this vital partnership.

I have had the opportunity to learn more about this partnership from Dr. Kulkarni, who is the Indian Consulate General in Atlanta, and a friend of mine. And she is also a friend of my State director, Umesh Sanjanwala.

So Prime Minister Modi's visit is an opportunity to deepen our collaboration in areas such as trade, defense, technology, and healthcare, which will shape the future trajectory of our nations.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in extending a warm welcome to the Prime Minister as he visits our great Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time—and I will be making a unanimous consent request in regards to the superintendent of U.S. Naval Academy, but I first want to acknowledge my responsibilities on behalf of this body.

You see, I serve on the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy. I was selected to be one of the Senate representatives on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors. We are extremely proud of what that academy has produced, and today it is producing the next generation of military leaders. It is consistently ranked as one of the top colleges in the United States, and it should be for training the next generation of leaders for our military.

I will just give you one example. The U.S. Naval Academy is prepared to deal with the challenges of AI and cyber security. It has new facilities there and is training experts to help defend our national security in that regard.

I also want to acknowledge on behalf of the Board of Visitors Admiral Buck, the current superintendent, who is retiring. He has done an incredible service to our Nation as the superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy and now has completed 40 years of service to this country.

Rear Admiral Yvette Davids is exceptionally qualified to be the next superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. Admiral Davids is a career professional military officer who has sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution and our country. She has consistently put service before self and the Constitution before politics.

Admiral Davids graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 with a B.S. in oceanography and was commissioned as an ensign. She later received an M.A. in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in 2002 and an M.S. in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2012.

She has had a distinguished career at sea, highlighted by commanding multiple U.S. warships as well as a carrier strike group. Ashore, she has served in increasing roles of importance, including as a senior military adviser at the State Department and as the chief of staff at U.S. Southern Command.

Admiral Davids has led men and women in combat, and her extensive experience will be vital to leading our next generation of officers at the Naval Academy.

Admiral Davids' confirmation as the next superintendent will be the culmination of a 34-year career dedicated to defending our country, and it will be historic, as she will become the first woman to lead the Naval Academy.

The incoming class of 2027 reports to the Naval Academy for induction on June 29, just a few days from now, and the fall semester begins on August 24. Admiral Davids should be confirmed as superintendent without delay in order to complete the turnover with the ongoing superintendent and prepare for the fall semester.

The last time the Naval Academy superintendent did not have a summer change of command was over 59 years ago. It occurred in 1964 when the incumbent superintendent had a heart attack that resulted in early retirement.

The Senate needs to confirm the promotion of Rear Admiral Davids now. The U.S. Naval Academy superintendent is charged with the moral, mental, and physical development of our 4,500 U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen across four classes who represent roughly one-third of the naval officers we commission each fiscal year. The position provides direct oversight to the commandant of midshipmen, who serves as the dean of students and supervises all military and professional development training of the brigade of midshipmen, and direct oversight to the civilian academic dean, who manages the academic pro-

grams and student facilities at the U.S. Naval Academy.

The superintendent is the public face of a premier academic institution and consistently hosts government officials, international symposiums, and liaises directly with alumni and distinguished Members of Congress on all matters pertinent to the institution.

If Rear Admiral Davids is not confirmed, it would force potential courses of action that are not in the best interests of the institution. This could include having the O-6 commandant of midshipmen act as superintendent or temporarily assigning another flag officer to act as superintendent. Neither of these options provides the continuity and leadership and seniority required to oversee a world-class academic institution. The other option could be to require an involuntary extension of the current superintendent of the academy, who has already selflessly served his country for over 40 years.

I think we all recognize that the United States Naval Academy is a unique institution. It provides us the trained leadership for future generations in our military. It is an academic institution that needs the full-time attention of a CEO to manage all the aspects that go on at the Naval Academy. We need to have that person in place before the beginning of this academic year, which is just a few days off.

Delaying this promotion will adversely affect the morale and readiness of the Naval Academy and beyond. Delaying this promotion is unfair to the young men and women already at or entering the Naval Academy who have signed up to put themselves in harm's way to serve our Nation in uniform. Delaying this promotion is a gratuitous, self-inflicted wound to our national security.

So, Mr. President, I am going to make this unanimous consent request. I do that, as I said earlier, with my experience on the Board of Visitors representing this institution, charged with doing everything we can to make sure we are as supportive as possible to our men and women who wear the uniform of this Nation and to those attending the U.S. Naval Academy.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 192, Rear Admiral Yvette Anne Davids, to be vice admiral; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object, this is the ninth time that my colleagues on the left have come to the floor to try to break my