

into law, which finally broke the decades-long gridlock on gun safety legislation. It is already making a difference with increased funding for community violence intervention and prevention initiatives, including some underway in Baltimore.

The new law strengthens protections for victims of domestic violence by adding convicted domestic violence abusers to background checks. It creates a new source of funding for States to implement “red flag” laws, which help to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals who should not have access to a firearm. It cracks down on criminals who try to evade licensing requirements and makes clear which gun sellers need to register, conduct background checks, and keep appropriate records. It also strengthens the background check process for those under 21 years of age seeking to buy firearms by ensuring that officials have access to juvenile and mental health records.

Importantly, in July 2022, shortly after the passing of this historic gun safety legislation, the Senate—I will acknowledge that unfortunately it was on a party-line vote—finally confirmed Steven Dettelbach to be the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF. The ATF had not had a permanent Senate-confirmed Director since 2015, due in part to lobbying by the National Rifle Association to keep this position vacant. The ATF now has a permanent leader in place who can carry out its critical mission to stem the illegal use and trafficking of firearms among other important priorities.

There is no single solution to this deadly problem. We have to attack this from all directions until our children and our neighbors stop being shot. In addition to battling the scourge of illegal weapons and changing the mindset at the community level, there has to be—we have to end the knee-jerk reaction of every disagreement trying to be settled by the use of handguns.

It is time—way past time—for Congress to pass commonsense additional legislation, such as renewing the assault weapons ban; requiring background checks for all gun sales, including unlicensed sellers; eliminating the Charleston loophole that allows for a sale to go forward if a check is not completed in 3 days; banning the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition; raising the minimum age for assault weapon purchases from 18 to 21; requiring the safe storage of guns; and ending gun manufacturers’ immunity from liability.

These are just a few additional examples we could do right here in the U.S. Congress and make a difference. As a community and as a Nation, we are not powerless to act. In fact, we have a responsibility to do something meaningful to save lives.

Most Americans support commonsense gun safety action. Saving lives is

the right thing to do, and it should never be partisan. Gun violence affects both urban and rural communities, and daily gun violence affects both large and small communities, even when it doesn’t make the headlines.

I urge my colleagues to take action now—not wait for another mass shooting—to break this ongoing cycle of violence in so many of our neighborhoods and communities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: All nominations placed on the Secretary’s desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

*PN667 COAST GUARD nominations (4) beginning STEVEN BLUM, and ending JASON VEARA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had I been there for the recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 114, Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027; the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 141, David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 21, Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.●

ISRAEL

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senate and House Abraham Accords Caucus co-chairs, it is with tremendous pride that I have the opportunity to welcome and honor my friend His Excellency Isaac Herzog, President of the State of Israel, ahead of his address to a Joint Meeting of Congress.

Nearly 3 years ago, we witnessed the historic signing of the Abraham Accords, and in that time, the Accords have transformed the Middle East, enhanced Israel’s security, created economic opportunities for our partners and allies in the region, and advanced vital American security interests. On the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, we recognize the profound possibilities the Accords offer to Israel and its Arab neighbors alike.

In 2022, Senators JAMES LANKFORD, CORY BOOKER, JONI ERNST, and I launched the bipartisan Senate Abraham Accords Caucus, alongside the House Abraham Accords Caucus, founded by Representatives CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, BRAD SCHNEIDER, ANN WAGNER, and DAVID TRONE. Together, we are working to build on the success of these historic agreements, help encourage and deepen partnerships among Israel and our Arab partners, and widen the circle of peace to new countries. We have advanced bipartisan legislation to deepen security cooperation between the United States, Israel, and our Arab partners and are developing initiatives to further cooperative and sustainable development partnerships in the areas of energy security, water infrastructure, trade, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.

In January, seven members of the Senate Abraham Accords Caucus traveled to Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Israel, the first-ever congressional delegation to visit these four nations since the signing of the Accords, where we saw firsthand how normalization is transforming the region. President Herzog believes in this vision, declaring: “The Abraham Accords proved above all else how the courage of leaders and nations can open a window to a world that had previously seemed unattainable, and how much space there is for momentum and growth when we choose to change paradigms and learn about each other.” As we celebrate 75 years of the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Israel, we are also committed to advancing Israel’s integration into the Middle East in pursuit of a more peaceful region.

President Herzog, we welcome you on this historic occasion and reaffirm the unbreakable bond between our two nations.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH AND LILLY ZIMMERMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Mitch and Lilly Zimmerman, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming’s 2023 honorees.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming began in 1969 as an organization to promote character development in young boys. Today, both boys and girls participate in the clubs to develop leadership skills and athletic abilities. They learn about a healthy lifestyle while focusing on character development and personal growth.

The mission of the club is to “enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.” The hundreds of adult mentors and volunteers who dedicate their time and passion make the success of this organization possible. Each year, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming honors one or more individuals for their nonstop support and guidance of Wyoming’s youth.

On the morning of September 13, 2023, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming will host their 25th annual awards and recognition breakfast in Casper. They will honor Mitch and Lilly Zimmerman for their resolute dedication to Casper’s youth. The Zimmermans’ reputable character and commitment to Wyoming’s youth is commendable. With this award, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming affirms their appreciation for these community leaders.

Raised in Wyoming, Mitch and Lilly graduated from Natrona County High School. They married shortly after Mitch’s graduation from college. Their Wyoming roots continued to grow. They both started their own businesses in Casper and engaged in charitable outreach. Mitch’s entrepreneurial journey began in 1996 when he opened Computer Associates, a system network integration and software design company that still operates in Casper today. His devotion to bettering the community does not stop there. Mitch has served on the board of directors, including president, for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming for 20 years. In addition, he has coached youth swimming and soccer for over 20 years. Lilly serves as the director of advancement at the True Care Women’s Resource Center. She coordinates fundraisers and oversees the organization’s volunteers. Prior to serving at True Care, Lilly owned a children’s clothing store. Along with serving the women of the community, Lilly dedicates her time helping youth. She served on the board of directors, including president, for the Youth for Christ Organization for over 10 years. She has gone on several international mission trips. The Zimmermans raised two sons in Casper, Collin and Austin. Collin, married to Taryn, has two children, Beau and Emory.

Mitch and Lilly’s community service and business ventures are guided by one important question they ask themselves every day, “How can I be a servant and a role model today?” It is with that commitment that they have touched the lives of so many children in Casper.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming are essential in helping young people reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. These services would not be possible without the passion and care of volunteers like Mitch and Lilly. They are extraordinary role models.

It is with great honor that I recognize and celebrate this incredible couple and their steady commitment to Casper’s youth. They are incredibly dedicated members of the community. They represent the best of Wyoming. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Mitch and Lilly Zimmerman for their selection for this special award.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON NEWTON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Shannon Newton on 20 years of dedicated service to the Arkansas Trucking Association. Shannon began her career with ATA working with the organization’s self-insurers’ fund after starting in the trucking industry at Maverick Transportation in North Little Rock. She quickly advanced within ATA after demonstrating her talents and skills to support and enhance the trucking industry. Since 2014, Shannon has served as president of ATA. Under her leadership, the organization has been tremendously strengthened and serves as a professional, organized, and effective advocate for Natural State truckers.

The work Shannon has done on behalf of Arkansas trucking is remarkable. Her leadership in such a critical industry has received national recognition. Shannon was awarded the Mike Russel Trucking Image Award from the American Trucking Association in 2017 and received the American Trucking Associations’ President’s Trucking Association Executives Council Leadership Award in 2018. The trucking industry in Arkansas has benefited from Shannon’s guidance and steady hand. She has worked tirelessly to build coalitions, create relationships and ensure pro-safety, pro-trucking policies are enacted at the State and national levels.

I have worked closely with Shannon during her tenure at ATA and have always been impressed by her passion and dedication in service to the men, women, and industry suppliers who help keep our country moving. I look forward to many more years of partnering to champion policies and reforms that will improve the trucking industry in Arkansas and across our country.●

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW MORIN

• Mrs. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Andrew Morin of Nashua as June’s Granite Stater of the Month. Andrew cofounded the ReGen-

erative Roots Association, which runs community farms, farm-to-school programs, and a food hub to help Nashua families thrive.

When Andrew was about 5 years old, his father gave him his first tomato seed to plant in their backyard. What started as an ingenious way to encourage Andrew to eat his vegetables turned into Andrew developing a lifelong passion for agriculture and local food systems.

About 10 years ago, Andrew and a group of high school friends, who were also lifelong Nashua residents, became interested in tackling local food security and sustainability. Using their connections in the community, they founded the ReGenerative Roots Association with a 4,000-square-foot garden plot, a couple of volunteers, and some high school interns. Today, the nonprofit is on its seventh growing season, with three community farm sites that are on pace to grow 15,000 pounds of food this year. The land is open to use by refugees and new farmers, and all who farm on the land donate 10 percent of their produce to the Nashua Children’s Home or Nashua Soup Kitchen.

In addition to community farms, ReGenerative Roots also has robust farm-to-school programs that teach students about the importance of local food systems and healthy eating through hands-on experiences in school gardens. Its newest program, the Food Hub, sells produce from local New England vendors and also has a food pantry to help people and families who can’t afford the food that they need.

Andrew Morin has made an incredible difference in the Nashua area, providing healthy fruits and vegetables to families and creating a sense of community and economic empowerment for newly arrived refugees. I commend him for his determination in tackling the challenging issue of food insecurity and healthy nutrition and for his generosity in giving back to the community. Andrew’s work exemplifies the Granite State spirit, and I look forward to seeing how ReGenerative Roots continues to touch the lives of even more Granite Staters in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)