

found unqualified to serve on the Federal bench by the American Bar Association. Compare that to President Biden's record.

During the Biden administration, not one—not one—of the 150 judges we have confirmed had an unqualified rating—not one. So when I hear some Senate Republicans waxing about the glory days of judicial nominees under President Trump, I can't help but wonder what they are talking about.

Are they talking about that district court nominee who had never tried a case but had instead worked as a ghost hunter and written blog posts defending the Ku Klux Klan?

What about another Trump trial court nominee who had never tried a case, never examined a witness, never taken a deposition, never argued a motion?

Or the Sixth Circuit nominee who likened abortion to slavery?

How about the Ninth Circuit nominee whose colleagues called him "arrogant, lazy, an ideologue, and lacking in knowledge of the day-to-day practice" of law?

In addition, Senate Republicans relied on increasingly absurd criticism in an attempt to undermine President Biden's nominees. Some Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee criticized one of Biden's nominees as soft on crime because she had dedicated her career to exonerating wrongfully imprisoned individuals, mainly using DNA evidence. That is right. Senate Republicans argued that releasing people from prison who did not actually commit the crime is somehow dangerous for society.

Just last week, one of my Republican colleagues criticized a nominee who had served as a Federal prosecutor for 16 years because he did not ask a judge to impose a sentence that was higher than the maximum sentence allowed by law in one case.

Let me be clear. This nominee would have been asking a Federal judge to violate the law if he had made such a request. Those types of attacks are simply not credible.

President Biden's nominees are qualified, and they have demonstrated impeccable temperament.

Something that stands out about these nominees, aside from their exceptional qualifications and loyalty to the rule of law, is the professional and demographic diversity they bring to the bench. When you go into a Federal courthouse today and look at the judges who are likely to be trying or deciding a case, you are going to find more diversity than ever before.

Under President Biden, in fact, we have made history, confirming more Black women to the Federal circuit courts than all prior Presidents combined. Of course, we also confirmed the first-ever Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and we have confirmed historic numbers of Asian-American judges, Latino judges, and LGBTQ judges.

It is not just demographic diversity that we have seen under President Biden. It is also professional diversity. In the past 2 years, we have confirmed more circuit judges with experience as public defenders than all prior Presidents combined.

For the record, I voted over and over again for former prosecutors—White males. The bench is made up of a lot of people whom I have voted for in the past, and I believe that they were ready for the job and competent to handle it. But we believe now that there should be more diversity, and this President is making sure the nominees sent our way meet that standard.

We have confirmed State court judges, Federal magistrates, bankruptcy judges, and prosecutors who have made significant and critical contributions to this country's justice system. One of President Biden's nominees served as a special prosecutor in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. And we have confirmed jurists with experience protecting the rights of voters, the rights of workers, civil rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights.

Another notable aspect of this record—and this, I am very happy to report—is that the vast majority, nearly 90 percent, of all these judicial confirmations have been bipartisan. Even on the appellate courts, over three-quarters of President Biden's nominees have received support from both sides of the aisle. This focus on qualified, consensus nominees goes a long way toward restoring trust and faith in our judiciary.

Let me also remind you that, in the first 2 years of the Biden administration, we had a 50–50 Senate and a 50–50 Judiciary Committee. We needed bipartisanship for anything to work.

The American people deserve Federal judges who not only look like America but understand what it means to be an American. That is an important part of our work that we began under President Biden. It is a work we must finish.

We celebrate these 150 judges, and we will continue elevating jurists who are qualified, principled, and committed, above all, to protecting our constitutional rights. The American people deserve nothing less.

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. THUNE. 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.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, engraved on a wall at the Korean Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, are these words: "Freedom is not free."

"Freedom is not free."

It is a stark reminder that our freedom has come at a cost; that it has been bought and paid for in blood, in dark days and terrifying nights of battle, in fear and loneliness, in Christmases and holidays and birthdays spent far from home, in visible wounds and in invisible wounds.

And on Veterans Day, above all, we remember this. We remember that we live in peace and freedom because men and women have answered our country's call, have stepped up and said, "I will serve," and have paid a price for that service.

One of my greatest honors as a U.S. Senator is having the opportunity to interact with military veterans. And in addition to meeting veterans around South Dakota, I have had the immense privilege of visiting with veterans who come to Washington, DC, on Honor Flights.

For anyone not familiar with the organization, Honor Flight is a nonprofit that exists to bring military veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the memorials that have been created in their honor.

At its inception, it focused on bringing World War II veterans to DC, but now, with members of the "greatest generation" few and far between, Honor Flights have been filling up with veterans of Korea and Vietnam as well as critically ill veterans from all eras.

I have been lucky enough to participate in three Honor Flight visits so far this year, organized by Midwest Honor Flight, which is our local Honor Flight hub in South Dakota. And the chance to interact with these heroes who have sacrificed to defend and preserve American freedoms is not something I take for granted. Seeing the look in their eyes as they visit the memorials—knowing that for some it will be the last opportunity they have to visit—is a profound privilege and a reminder of all these men and women have given for our country.

It is also deeply moving to hear from the family members who accompany these veterans, a number of whom have told me how cathartic these visits have been for their loved ones—sometimes marking the first time they really talked about their wartime experience.

On multiple occasions when I have been down at the memorials visiting with Honor Flight veterans, I have seen students with school groups come up to these veterans and thank them. It is really an amazing thing to witness. And it has made me reflect on just how important it is that children have these opportunities to see and thank our veterans and to understand what they have given us.

Ronald Reagan once said that freedom is always only one generation removed from extinction. It can't be passed on in the bloodstream. It has to be fought for and defended and handed down for our children to do the same or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children's children what it was once like to live in the United States of America where men are free.

Freedom is, indeed, a fragile thing. It is easy to take it for granted when you have it. But it is not a guarantee, and it must, indeed, be fought for and defended constantly by each generation.

Seeing those schoolchildren interact with veterans who have helped secure our freedom reminded me of the importance of handing down an understanding of that freedom to our children, of teaching them just what our military men and women have fought and died for, and of reminding them that it will be their responsibility to preserve it.

Seeing those schoolchildren and veterans interact also reminded me that we should hold up our veterans to young people, not just as examples to revere but as examples to imitate. We should make sure that young people know that serving their country in the U.S. military is one of the noblest paths that they could take and that while military life is a life of sacrifice, it is also a life of meaning and purpose, one that offers pride and brotherhood and the lasting knowledge that your labor has made a difference.

On Veterans Day and every day, I am grateful to those who have answered our Nation's call and taken up arms in defense of liberty. May God bless all the men and women who serve or have served in the U.S. military and may He help us to live lives worthy of their sacrifice.

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. BARRASSO. 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.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about this dangerous rise that we are seeing in anti-Semitism. We are seeing it in this country, and we are seeing it all around the world.

One of the most important vows that our Nation made to the Jewish people is the vow of "never again." I have a simple question. Are we doing everything that we can to keep that vow in the wake of October 7 and the Hamas terrorist attack against Israel? A month ago, Hamas killed more Jews in a single day than at any time since the Holocaust. Yet some students, professors, and public officials in our country are indulging and even endorsing this act, which to me is torture and mass murder, and anyone who has witnessed the videos could say nothing but torture and mass murder.

Once again, the Jewish people are being threatened simply for who they are and for what they believe. It is happening to individuals all around the country and around the world. There are those who are praising the horrific

mass murder, torture, and kidnapping of Jews by Hamas terrorists. Some of that praise is even coming from right here in Washington, DC, and across our country.

Anti-Semitic incidents of vandalism, harassment, and assault are up almost 400 percent compared to this time a year ago. In October of 2022, there were 64 total anti-Semitic incidents reported in America. October 7, 2023—the day Hamas attacked Israel—since that day to today, over 300 reported incidents. That is a 400-percent increase compared to last year, and that is in America alone.

Anti-Semitism is festering on college campuses. You probably heard about several of these incidents. Fifty-one student groups, including at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, and UCLA, signed a letter in support of Hamas's brutal terrorist, murderous attacks. Students at George Washington University, right here, located in our Nation's Capital, held a vigil that they described as a "Vigil for the Martyrs of Palestine." And they projected "Glory to our Martyrs" right on the library wall. It is disturbing and it is hateful.

A pro-Hamas mob at Cooper Union University in New York City stormed the library. The mob started banging on doors and windows. Jewish students were trapped. They feared for their lives. Eventually, they had to be escorted to safety. No one has been punished.

A Cornell student was arrested last week for posting anti-Semitic death threats on the school's messaging boards. Weeks earlier, a Cornell professor said he was exhilarated by Hamas's brutality. Students at Tulane University, which is 40 percent Jewish, were also attacked. Pro-Hamas protesters tried to burn an Israeli flag. One speaker at Princeton University went so far as to equate Israel with Nazi Germany. After a mass murder of innocent Jewish mothers, fathers, children, and Holocaust survivors, radical students and professors in this country have the gall to compare the Jews to those who sought to systemically kill them during the holocaust.

Let's imagine that we are Jewish students who go to these schools and live in these communities. Here is how one Jewish student describes her situation on campus. This young lady said:

It is terrifying to see classmates call for violence against Jews so confidently and so publicly.

In other words, for many Jewish students, "never again" has turned into "nowhere is safe."

The University of Wyoming, rightly, has called out the evil in the wake of the terrorist attack against Israel. Our University President, Ed Seidel, and our Provost, Kevin Carman, condemned the "heinous . . . acts of terrorism" against Israel. Every university should do the same.

America can't turn its back on the Jewish people of Israel or on Israel. That is exactly what I fear we are seeing right now.

Hamas's brutality is front page news every single day. Israel is clear-eyed in its mission to destroy Hamas. Instead of standing shoulder to shoulder with our closest ally in the Middle East, the Biden administration is currently calling for a "pause." The United Nations' 120 members recently voted in favor of a resolution calling for a cease-fire. In the House of Representatives right down the hall, a group of Members known as the Squad are also demanding a cease-fire. I didn't hear them call for a cease-fire when Hamas attacked Israel. They only want Israel to stop defending itself. That is the role of the Squad.

There already was a cease-fire before October 7. Hamas broke that cease-fire. More than 1,400 innocent Israelis and Americans are now dead. A pause or a cease-fire now would only help Hamas dig in and rearm. I am against a pause. I am against a cease-fire. America should never take action that could help terrorists prevail. To me, that is what a cease-fire would do.

Instead of a cease-fire, we need to cease paying Hamas; we need to cease paying Iran; and we need to cease being silent in the face of anti-Semitism.

Moments like this are very concerning and also moments like this are very clarifying. America has existed from the very beginning to protect our freedom of religion. As President George Washington wrote in a letter to a Newport synagogue in 1790—he said America promises to give "bigotry no sanction."

America stands on the values of respect and toleration.

When we vowed "never again," we meant it and continue to mean it today. As we confront the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, our entire Nation must do everything we can to keep our word.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHMITT. 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.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a problem that is plaguing our great country.

Americans and the rest of the world woke up on October 7 to horrific scenes in Israel, and the ensuing news reports of Hamas's terrorist attack brought to light even more gruesome details—thousands of innocent Israelis slaughtered, babies decapitated, people burned alive, horrific scenes of brutality and brazen disregard for humanity by Hamas terrorists. Israel and American hostages are still awaiting rescue.

These past few weeks following the terrorist attack, there has been a frightening rise of anti-Semitism, particularly on college campuses and from