

the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. His committee has been investigating problematic investments in Chinese companies, and he has been clear, based upon those investigations, that Congress needs to enact strong guardrails around investments in China.

But before you do that, you need good information, which is what our outbound investment transparency provision provides. I am glad Chairman GALLAGHER and Chairman McCUAUL will bring their expertise to the Defense authorization bill conference committee. And I am optimistic they can work out with our Senate colleagues a provision that will earn strong bipartisan support.

After 3½ months of waiting, I hope the Senate will finally vote to begin the NDAA conference committee process this week. Once that happens, the two Chambers can work together in earnest to reach an agreement on a final version of the bill.

Here in the Senate, I appreciate Chairman REED and Ranking Member WICKER for their leadership throughout this process and their support of this amendment with Senator CASEY.

I also want to express my gratitude to Senator SULLIVAN of Alaska for his support and his commitment to putting a strong outbound investment provision in this year's NDAA.

There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but there is clearly—clearly—an overwhelming bipartisan desire to counter threats from China through an outbound investment measure. As I noted, this amendment passed the Senate by 91 to 6.

In the House, Members on both sides have endorsed varying proposals that address the same problem from different angles. I don't understand why anyone would be opposed to outbound investment transparency. All we are asking for is information that may or may not require us to take further action.

This information is key to our national security and will help the United States manage risks related to China. And I hope we can get the job done soon.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJAN).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL FARMER OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND THE MARINES AND SAILORS OF 1ST PLATOON, COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate offered a resolution that I was proud to offer, "Honoring the Distinguished Service of Captain Samuel Farmer of the United States Marine Corps and the Marines and Sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment," and I would like, if I might, to say a word or two about that resolution here this afternoon.

Why the resolution and who exactly are the marines and sailors of 1st Platoon? Well, I will tell you who they are. They were the individuals stationed at Abbey Gate on that fateful day in August of 2021 when the United States was in the midst of a major evacuation operation, and a terrorist from the Islamic State came to Abbey Gate in Kabul, Afghanistan, and detonated a suicide vest that killed 13 soldiers and hundreds of civilians, including 9 members of this platoon. Nine of the thirteen who were killed were from 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

Who is Sam Farmer? Well, he was their commander. Sam is from the great State of Missouri. He is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. Upon his graduation, he was commissioned into the Marine Corps and became an infantry officer. Upon completing his training, he took command of a rifle platoon there in Company G, known as Ghost Company. His platoon was Ghost 1.

Then, in August of 2021, Sam and his platoon found themselves in Kabul, Afghanistan. Sam's platoon was charged with security there at Abbey Gate, and there are—I think even now, 2 years removed from the disaster there, we don't fully appreciate the heroism of all of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and others who were there that day but particularly, if I might, of this platoon, of the men Sam commanded.

Something that most people don't know is that Sam's platoon went for almost 2 days without food and water. Now, why was that? Is it because there wasn't any available for them? No, that is not it. It is because this platoon, in the midst of this evacuation, this incredibly tense scene, gave up their own food and water for 2 days to the Afghan women and children who were waiting in the crowds, hoping to be evacuated. That is the kind of men who were standing there on guard that day. That is the kind of man Sam Farmer is.

Of those 9 servicemembers killed—8 marines, 1 Navy corpsman—another Missourian was among their ranks, someone whom I have had occasion to talk about on this floor several times before—LCpl Jared Schmitz, also from Missouri.

Nine were killed from that platoon. Many others were wounded, and that includes Sam Farmer himself, the platoon commander. But even with his wounds, even in the midst of this disaster as it unfolded, Sam continued to serve, his fellow platoon members continued to serve and to complete their mission.

I just want to make sure that we honor them for what they did, that we honor them for securing the airport and facilitating the evacuation of American citizens, permanent residents, Embassy workers, and special immigrant visa holders. Whatever you think of our withdrawal from Afghanistan, we should be able to honor the men and women who served so bravely, including Sam Farmer and the members of his platoon.

You know, I have had the privilege to get to know Sam just a little bit. He grew up not too far from where I did in central Missouri. His parents, Chris and Anne, are schoolteachers at Fort Osage School District, which is in the Buckner area, for those who know Missouri, just to the west of my hometown of Lexington, MO. Sam has a younger brother, Jack.

If you meet Sam, what you will find is that he is self-effacing, doesn't like to talk about his own achievements, doesn't like really to talk about himself at all. What he likes to talk about is his service and the men and women he served with. What he likes to talk about is his honor in being a U.S. marine.

To be honest with you, I don't know that he would particularly like me saying too much about him on the floor today, but I thought it was important to honor him because Sam, just last month, completed his service with the U.S. Marine Corps. On the occasion of his separation, I offered this resolution, which details his service and the service of the members of his platoon.

You know, I have to say I think about those who have served whom I know, and I think about particularly my own uncle, Gene Hammer, who served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. I observed over the years that my Uncle Gene—he served before I was born, but, you know, he served, he came home. He won a number of medals, but when he came home, he put those medals away in a drawer and never talked about it ever after. He didn't want to talk about it. He didn't want to talk about himself, didn't want to talk about what he did, didn't want to talk about those medals, didn't want to talk about any of it. I can certainly understand, and I certainly respect that.

But I will just say that whether Sam feels that way or not, I bet one of these days, Sam's children are going to want to know what he did for his country, and I bet his family is going to want to honor his service to his country. Frankly, his family and his future children deserve to know what he and the members of his platoon did for this country.

So I hope this resolution that the Senate has passed and adopted honoring Sam and his platoon—I hope that maybe one day, he will be able to show that to his kids and say “Well, here, you can read about what we did all those years ago” and that his parents, Chris and Anne, will be able to hang that up and say “This is what my son did for our country, proudly serving, this young man from Missouri who represents, frankly, the best of who we are and who we can be.”

So it is a privilege to get to honor Sam, to congratulate him on his service to our country, to the Marine Corps, to congratulate him on his service, his leadership of that platoon not just on that fateful day but for all of the days he was commander, and the leadership, the courage, and the bravery he has shown ever since.

I will just end with this. Let's take the opportunity to honor the sacrifice of those marines and sailors. They truly embody the motto “Semper Fidelis,” always faithful.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

IRAN

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, since Joe Biden took office, Iran and its proxies have attacked American troops in the Middle East at least 135 times. Let me say that again: 135 attacks on American troops since January 2021. What is worse is that 52 of those attacks have happened in the last month since Hamas conducted its murderous rampage in its ongoing war against Israel. These rocket and drone attacks against American bases in Iraq and Syria have caused at least 56 service-member injuries, 25 traumatic brain injuries, and 2 Americans have died because of these attacks.

Just like they have been for years, these attacks are financed by Iran, Israel's greatest enemy. These attacks—let's be clear—are meant to kill Americans and to increase the conflict and the violence in the Middle East.

So what has President Biden done in response to these attacks? Has he punished Iran and its proxies for killing Americans? Has he made it clear that the United States will not tolerate these attacks in the future? No, not even close.

Consider the Biden administration has also failed to enforce oil sanctions on Iran, giving them over \$90 billion, and now President Biden is, reportedly, once again, considering the release of the remaining \$10 billion Iran is owed as part of its hostage exchange. What kind of message does it send to the people attacking our troops to give them another \$10 billion more to fund their activities against the United States and Israel?

In fact, since the terrible atrocity of October 7, Joe Biden has not changed his Iran policy in a single way. Of the 135 attacks on Americans, the Biden

administration has hit back fewer than 10 times. Think about that; 135 times they hit us, fewer than 10 times did we hit them back. When the attacks against Americans increased in October, President Biden didn't even authorize a response for 9 days. It took at least 13 attacks on Americans for President Biden to finally react. And what did he do? The bare minimum, striking empty weapons storage facilities in eastern Syria.

After these strikes, Secretary Blinken said:

My warning to the Ayatollah was that if they continue to move against those troops, we will respond, and he should be prepared.

Well, it is not surprising that shooting a bunch of empty warehouses doesn't scare Iran. In fact, it emboldened them in the form of 22 more attacks. That is right. Proxies attacked American troops' positions 22 more times after that initial pathetic response.

When Secretary Austin announced those strikes, he said:

The United States does not seek conflict and has no intention nor desire to engage in further hostilities.

Well, Lloyd Austin and Joe Biden may not seek conflict, but Iran does. And it will continue to try to kill our troops until they face real consequences, until they are scared straight.

On Sunday, we finally did hit back again, but, again, we didn't even try to hold the real bad guys accountable; instead, the administration, once again, shot only at expendable proxies. Iran obviously was not deterred by this latest pathetic response. How do we know that? Once again, these proxies have committed four more attacks against Americans since Sunday.

Iran has had a proxy strategy for decades. It uses groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and militias in Iraq and Syria to deny responsibility for its campaign of terror against Israel and the United States. When we kill their proxies, all we do is validate their proxy strategy.

Iran will fight to the last Arab, but Iran will not fight if we hold the things at risk that they hold most dear: their shock troops in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, their Quds Force or, if necessary, sites and facilities in Iran itself.

The United States needs Iran to know that we will not tolerate these attacks. We need to make sure Iran knows that we will not tolerate these attacks and that any attacks by Iran's proxies will be treated as an attack by Iran on the United States and be met with devastating consequences.

That is one reason I will be introducing legislation later this week that would strengthen sanctions against the Iranian transfer of missiles and drone technologies to terrorists and even other nations like Russia, which uses them in its war against Ukraine.

It will also stop Iran from developing the kind of long-range missiles that

can threaten the U.S. homeland because, again, if we let Iran continue to shoot at American troops in the Middle East without shooting back at the Iranians who are directing those attacks, what will they do if they get their hands on missiles that can target America? What will they do if they get their hands on a nuclear weapon?

It is time, today, to make Iran, once again, fear the United States before more Americans die.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. REED assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Nebraska.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, well, here we are again. I am looking at a floor where there is nobody on it. In fact, we haven't even taken a vote today. It has been 7 weeks since our last government shutdown face-off, and nobody is here.

Folks, we have very serious problems facing our country. We have an open border. It is a humanitarian and security crisis. We have \$34 trillion in debt. Let me put that in perspective. That is about \$256,000 for everybody in this country. And that is roughly the cost of a second mortgage for people in Nebraska. So it is like you own your own home, and now you have another home on top of that—only it is not a home; it is your Federal debt. And, of course, we are facing another government shutdown because we have not passed a budget.

When I was Governor of Nebraska, one of the things I told my team is that passing a budget is our most important thing we do: We fund the government. We would get involved 6 months before. We would give our budget to the legislature to start working on that budget.

Now, let me tell you how it is supposed to work here in the U.S. Senate. We are supposed to pass 12 appropriations bills. For the first time in 5 years, the Senate Appropriations Committee indeed passed 12 appropriations bills before the August recess—first time in 5 years before the August recess. Two came out June 22. The other 10 came out in July.

And yet, for months, our leader sat on those appropriations bills. We did not vote on them. We did nothing. We should have been amending, debating, and voting on those bills, and we did nothing. And here we are again, facing a government shutdown.

Now, it is a little different this time around because we have actually voted on 3 of those 12 appropriations bills. They were crammed together in what is called a minibus. And since that minibus has been voted on and passed, we have done nothing again, which means we have done 25 percent of our work—25 percent.

Now, to most people, 25 percent is a failing grade. Leading up to the September 30 deadline to pass the budget,