

enforcement officers, also serves in the North Dakota National Guard.

Mr. President, he epitomizes what it is to be a hero.

On July 14, 2023, nearly a year ago, Officer Robinson was one of four officers to respond to a routine fender bender. As the officers were wrapping up their handling of the accident, Officer Robinson moved his police vehicle out of the street. A shooter, who was not involved in the initial accident, ambushed the officers, firing on them and a bystander.

The shooter hit Zach's three fellow officers, killing Officer Jake Wallin and gravely injuring Officers Andrew Dotas and Tyler Hawes, both of whom attended the TOP COPS banquet with their spouses.

Zach radioed to "send everybody," as he engaged in a shootout with the assailant. Officer Robinson was literally the last man standing, but he did not hesitate as he moved toward—not away from, but toward—the gunfire, putting himself between the shooter and the innocent—finally, fatally wounding the assailant.

This senseless, premeditated attack targeted police officers who were simply doing what they do: their jobs protecting and taking care of citizens in need.

Evidence collected in the investigation revealed the shooter's fixation on mass shooting events and his likely intent to perpetrate an attack at a large event, like the Downtown Fargo Street Fair that was going on just a few blocks away or, in the next community over, the Red River Valley Fair. In his car alone, the shooter had more than 1,800 rounds of ammunition, multiple firearms, and several homemade explosive devices. This was a man intent on inflicting carnage on the community—a community that had never seen anything like this before.

Despite this quote—"it was a bad, bad day"—when Officer Robinson was asked if he had considered leaving law enforcement, he did not hesitate. He said he "wanted to come back right away. There was no question I wasn't going to not come back to work."

We will likely never know how many lives he saved that day—that his heroism protected that day—but his actions will never be forgotten by the Fargo community or the State of North Dakota. In addition to the TOP COP award, Officer Robinson earned the Medal of Honor from the Fraternal Order of Police, was named the Fargo Police Department's 2023 Officer of the Year and the 2023 National Rifle Association Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Several months after the shooting, he was asked what he thought of being called a hero and said he was "grateful to be in the right place at the right time to do what needed to be done. I was just able to react and eliminate the shooter before he had the chance to hurt anybody else."

It has been said that heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary

things, and while Zach's extraordinary act of heroism is what was celebrated Sunday night in Washington, DC, it is his humility that stands out the most to me. This is a characteristic, by the way, that is shared by his fellow officers who were involved in the horrific events of that day in Fargo. Officers Hawes and Dotas project this quiet strength and a noble concern for others, never shining the spotlight on themselves. And while it is not surprising, it is always encouraging.

Officer Robinson's story—his refusal to yield, his swift action in the face of grave danger—captured the essence of why we must back the blue, always supporting our officers not just in words but in actions and deeds, ensuring that they have all they need to carry out their duties safely and effectively.

During National Police Week, we honor Zach and his brothers and sisters in blue across the country who go to work every day to protect our communities, despite the dangers around the corner or across the street. This week is also a chance to remember the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

At a time when police officers are all too often scoffed or defunded by the very people relying on them for public safety, we need to constantly remember the real-world impacts of their service. Every officer who is lost is a mother, father, sister, brother, a son, or a daughter taken too soon from a family who loves them and will miss them.

Mr. President, our officers and their families deserve to know we will always have their backs. The TOP COPS awards banquet at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on Sunday was not just one of the many special events we all attend in these jobs. For me, it was the honor of a lifetime to be there to pay tribute to the most extraordinary of the ordinary.

Congratulations to Officer Robinson for the TOP COPS award, to Chief Dave Zibolski and the entire Fargo Police Department, and thank you to all law enforcement officers for their everyday heroism. We love you, and we pray for you always.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO ZOE AGUILLARD

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a staffer on my team, Zoe Aguillard, who has served the people of Louisiana for 7 years, the fourth-ranking member of my office, a staffer whom I relied upon during my time in the Senate, who is now leaving for what she thinks to be greener pastures.

It is always bittersweet when a staffer leaves. I had been teaching medical school for many years before coming here. You see talented younger people come on board, and you know they have a tremendous future ahead of them. So if they move on to that tremendous future, you can't cry; you must celebrate.

But, nonetheless, you regret losing someone who has grown so much, both as a person, but also in her achievements and in the affection your entire family has for her.

Zoe started as a scheduler, somewhat green. She quickly became the boss, making everything go on time. She had the honesty to tell me it would go even better on time if I showed up on time. But she had a real ability to speak honestly in a very tactful way to modify my behavior.

Whether it was meetings with constituents, townhalls, events, speeches, she worked behind the scenes to make it happen. And, importantly, she became very sensitive to the fact that I am a family guy who would like to be home for my grandson's graduation from fourth grade and would like to spend time with my wife—all those things that are beyond scheduling and move into trying to truly understand how someone lives their life.

The President of the Senate right now and all my colleagues know a scheduler and operations director makes or breaks your office. They help to squeeze the most out of every single day. And things you might find impossible, they find a way to get it done 7 days a week, every day of the year.

Examples: Zoe has been key in helping to plan the Senate's National Seersucker Day. I look forward to seeing my colleague from Vermont tricked out in his Seersucker suit for this year's Seersucker Day. It looks great on TV. She helped host Thursday Lunch Groups for my Republican colleagues and many other things we have done in-State and here to benefit our State and our Nation. Whether they realize it or not, nearly every office in the Senate has worked with Zoe at some point.

The difference she has made during my tenure cannot be summarized in one speech. But I don't get emotional because I will continue to work with Zoe. She is moving back to Louisiana—the State she holds in her affections—to the benefit of our State, our country, and our fellow humans. I wish her the best, and I wish her dog Louie the best. They will both be missed in our office.

(The remarks of Mr. CASSIDY pertaining to the introduction of S. 4329 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATION OF COURTNEY DIESEL O'DONNELL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in strong support of the nomination of Courtney O'Donnell to be the U.S. Representative to UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

From threats to historic world heritage sites, to the dangers women and girls face across the globe, to the recent surge of anti-Semitism and intolerance around the world, it is critical

that the United States advance our interest at UNESCO and that we have a confirmed Ambassador.

I am going to underscore the point of the need for a U.S. Ambassador confirmed presence at UNESCO. Because of the current major escalation of anti-Semitism here in America and around the world, one of UNESCO's specific mandates is to combat anti-Semitism and promote Holocaust education, to ensure that other countries teach future generations about the Holocaust, and combat Holocaust denial.

Today, that mission is more important than ever before in recent times. That is why we need a confirmed U.S. Representative who has the experience to advance U.S. priorities, from championing Holocaust educational programs, to advancing girls' education in STEM, to developing responsible international standards on science and technology, including for AI.

Courtney O'Donnell is the right person for this job, and I am very proud to support her nomination, and I am very pleased that she is willing to serve in this capacity. She currently serves in the Office of the Vice President as a Senior Advisor and the Acting Chief of Staff for Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, where she focuses on countering anti-Semitism, among other issues. She has played an integral role in developing and implementing the administration's anti-Semitism policies. She understands the need for strong U.S. leadership. She understands the urgency of advancing efforts to combat anti-Semitism. She has a proven track record of working to counter anti-Semitism and Holocaust denialism through her work on the U.S. national strategy to combat anti-Semitism.

Don't just take my word for it; let me quote from the president of the World Jewish Congress, who says that Ms. O'Donnell's efforts to combat anti-Semitism "demonstrate a profound commitment to eradicating hate and promoting Holocaust education" and that her confirmation would be a "necessary step" to ensure that "UNESCO continues to uphold its ongoing commitment to partner with Israel, preserve Jewish heritage, combat disinformation, and expand Holocaust education efforts."

The American Jewish Committee said that Ms. O'Donnell's confirmation will "bring U.S. leadership to UNESCO on issues of global concern to the Jewish community and advance American values of pluralism and freedom of expression."

The National Council of Jewish Women and Better World Campaign have echoed these points, writing in strong support of her confirmation.

She committed to do that at the hearing we had before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she said she would work "aggressively to combat antisemitism and counter anti-Israel bias."

We know that we have challenges in our international organizations on

anti-Israel bias. We know that. We need a champion, a confirmed Ambassador who will be a champion to represent America to fight that type of anti-Semitic activities and anti-Israel activities and to speak out in favor of Holocaust education and implement strategies to combat anti-Semitism.

This should be a clear vote by my colleagues to want to have America's presence at UNESCO to fight anti-Semitism, when we know how prevalent it is today and how it is growing today.

So I urge my colleagues to support cloture and confirm Ms. O'Donnell to be the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization without any further delay. I know we will have a chance to vote on that shortly.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 579, Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Debbie Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Murkowski
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Collins	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—9

Capito	Menendez	Rubio
Cotton	Ricketts	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	Risch	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I submit to the Senate the budget for fiscal year 2025. Last summer, Congress agreed to a 2-year budget deal as part of negotiations surrounding the debt limit. That was the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, or the FRA. It included a provision to serve in place of a formal budget resolution for both fiscal years 2024 and 2025. I am submitting the necessary budgetary levels to implement that agreement today.

In the Budget Committee, my Republican colleagues have suggested that we should be debating a budget resolution. So I will take this moment to remind them that we already have one in place from that agreement. I don't see our committee wasting precious time on something that has already been decided, when we could and, indeed, should be preparing for the future.

When at least \$10 trillion of our national debt stems from two exogenous shocks to the economy—namely, the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID pandemic—it would be folly for the Budget Committee not to focus on future shocks to our economy, which is why the Budget Committee has been focused on threats to our Nation's long-term fiscal outlook and on proposing solutions—like how climate change poses systemic risks to our economy, like how tax cuts for the wealthy are driving up deficits, like