

by providing clear guidance to address the full scope of discriminatory, anti-Semitic behavior.

As a cosponsor of the Senate companion, I urge my colleagues to stand with the Jewish-American community and vote for this legislation.

I am also pleased to join my colleagues in cosponsoring the Countering Antisemitism Act, which is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would strengthen efforts to combat rising anti-Semitism in the United States, including the establishment of a National Coordinator to Counter Antisemitism, who would oversee the Federal efforts to counter domestic anti-Semitism and lead an interagency task force. It requires analyses and threat assessments from executive Agencies and law enforcement on anti-Semitism and violent extremism.

Of great interest to many Marylanders is that the Countering Antisemitism Act also requires the FEMA Administrator to ensure the Agency has sufficient resources and personnel needed to carry out the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which provides critical security equipment and upgrades for many faith-based institutions and facilities across our State.

We are building on President Biden's National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism—the first ever—that identifies the problem we face today.

It states:

Loud voices are normalizing this venom, but we must never allow it to become normal. Antisemitism threatens not only the Jewish community, but all Americans.

I would like to take this moment to praise the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and its incredible staff for its efforts to counter misinformation and disinformation. I am proud to be a member of the museum's advisory council.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has always put education and countering anti-Semitism at the forefront of its mission and activities. Since October 7, it has ramped up in an unprecedented way and further cemented its role as an indispensable resource as well as a myth-buster in this national and international fight against anti-Semitism and hate.

Anti-Semitism did not start with the Hamas attacks. From the White supremacists chanting "Jews will not replace us" in Charlottesville, forcing Jews to leave their synagogue through the back door, to the rightwing extremist, armed with an AR-15 rifle and three handguns, who attacked the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, killing 11 Jews and leaving 7 others wounded, this has been a violent scourge that goes back centuries.

No matter what your political affiliation, we all must speak out against this hatred and correct the misinformation that breeds it. The sobering reality is that threats against Jews continue to rise—not just in the United States but also around the world.

Just since 2015, I have had the honor to serve as the Special Representative

on Combatting Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance for the parliamentary assembly of the world's largest regional security organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, best known as the OSCE. I have used this role to urge the OSCE's 57 participating states, the United States included, to develop strategies and invest the political will and resources necessary to eradicate hate by developing and sharing best practices, building broad-based interfaith coalitions, educating young people, and countering Holocaust denial and distortions.

Just as the obligation to combat anti-Semitism is not just an American endeavor, it is also not just a Jewish endeavor. The responsibility to rid our society of the scourge of anti-Semitism is a shared responsibility.

I was proud to be part of the U.S. delegation to the Berlin conference. In Berlin, Germany, in 2004, OSCE's participating states declared that anti-Semitism is a threat not only to Jews everywhere but also to democracy, human rights, and international stability. When societies permit anti-Semitism to thrive, they also allow conspiracies and disinformation and hate in all its forms to thrive.

In extreme cases, ignoring anti-Semitism can lead not only to the erosion of public trust in democratic institutions and the media, but it can foster extremism and lead to violence.

With the dangerous rise of anti-Semitism in recent months in the United States, Jewish students and faculty have been blocked from attending classes or campus events and have been regularly harassed and attacked on campus. Many are scared to attend classes or walk around. Jewish businesses and synagogues have been vandalized. Students and nonstudents have expressed concern about wearing clothing or jewelry that might be used to identify them as Jewish.

Throughout my career in public service, I have stood for the right of individuals everywhere to free speech and peaceful protests—even if I vehemently disagree with what they are saying. But it is another thing to target, threaten, and harass Jewish students or faculty on the basis of their identity.

As President Joe Biden said at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum recently, "Violent attacks, destroying property is not peaceful protest. It's against the law. And we are not a lawless country. We're a civil society. We uphold the rule of law. No one should have to hide or be brave just to be themselves."

As a Jewish American, I was raised with the understanding that *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world, was an essential part of every community. Through acts of charity, justice, and kindness, we were encouraged to make things better for those in need. This has been my mission over the years, and it is no hyperbole to say that it is

more important today than ever before.

The Jewish people have survived the Holocaust. We have overcome terrorist attacks and anti-Semitism before. By holding fast to our values, we as a Jewish community will overcome these difficult times too.

So I want to end with a quote from Anne Frank, who was reflecting on the difficult times she was seeing when she wrote:

I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquility will return once more.

My wish during this Jewish American Heritage Month is that we as Americans, Jews and non-Jews alike, find a way to come together. Only by rejecting anti-Semitism and all forms of hate, racism, and xenophobia will we find a path forward where all people can live together in peace and stability, with an abundance of hope and opportunity.

I thank my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Alabama.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, our national anthem closes with the lines "O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?" Usually sung as a declaration, the song's author actually intended for this to be a question, because while we often take our freedom as a guarantee, it should never be taken for granted.

President Ronald Reagan once said:

Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. And those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.

Our freedom depends on men and women who are willing to defend it no matter what the cost.

This coming weekend, we will observe Memorial Day. It started as Decoration Day for the 1860s. Congress made Memorial Day a national holiday in 1968.

Many people would take this day as an opportunity to cook out, go to the lake, go to the pool, be around friends, but that is not the purpose of this day. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made for all of our freedom—those who made the ultimate sacrifice and the honorable families they leave behind.

I think we can all agree our fallen heroes deserve to be remembered for more than one day a year. That is why I introduced the resolution to designate May as "Fallen Heroes Memorial Month." I appreciate my friend

Congressman DAN BISHOP of North Carolina for introducing this resolution in the House. I hope our colleagues will join us in passing this resolution because there is no cause more deserving for our time and effort.

Setting aside a month to recognize our fallen servicemembers and their families instead of one day is the least we all can do.

HONORING MESS ATTENDANT FIRST CLASS JOHNNIE LAURIE

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize some of Alabama's fallen soldiers who have paid freedom's high cost and the families who still grieve their absence. You know, it is estimated that more than 81,000 American soldiers who gave their lives for our country remain unidentified—unidentified—since World War I.

For nearly 80 years, this was the case for Alabama's own Mess Attendant First Class Johnnie Laurie of Bessemer, AL. Johnnie was very active at the Red Mountain Baptist Church teaching both Sunday school and Baptist young people's union classes.

He graduated from Dunbar High School, where he competed in basketball and high jumping in track.

In 1940, Johnnie joined the U.S. Navy and was later assigned to serve aboard the USS *Oklahoma*. He was aboard the ship on the fateful day of December 7, 1941, when our country was attacked by Japanese aircraft.

Unfortunately, Johnnie was one of the 2,403 Americans who died at Pearl Harbor that day. He was awarded several medals posthumously, including a Purple Heart for paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Out of the 429 crewmen aboard the ship, the Central Identification Laboratory was only able to identify 35 of the 429. This mystery seemed like it would never be solved. But in July 2019, Johnnie Laurie's remains were identified, and he was finally able to return to his home State of Alabama to receive a proper hero's welcome. He is now buried at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, AL.

His brother Elmer, now 94 years old, continues to participate in memorial ceremonies to ensure the sacrifices of fallen heroes like his brother are never, ever forgotten.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS RIVERS, JR.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, for many of our heroes, the desire to serve began at an early age. That is the case of LCpl Thomas Rivers, Jr., of Hoover, AL. His parents and Thomas knew as a child that he wanted to be a marine, his lifelong dream. This desire only grew throughout his life, and he was motivated in everything that he did by this thought of becoming a marine.

He struggled, at first, in high school until a military recruiter told him he would need a high school diploma to

enlist. Low grades were never a problem after that conversation. This was evidenced in an English essay he wrote entitled "Why I Want to Go Into the Marines." In the essay, he wrote in part:

I don't think I would be afraid of combat and would be proud to fight for my country.

He went on to say:

I believe that joining the Marines would be a great experience for me because it will teach me to rely on God to make it through.

Thomas joined the Marines as soon as he graduated from Briarwood Christian School in 2007. After completing training at Camp Lejeune, he deployed to Iraq and then to Afghanistan. His faith never wavered, despite the intense conditions of combat he was in almost daily.

He and one of his friends, one night, began a Bible study while deployed, leaning on passages of the Bible for comfort.

Corporal Rivers was killed by an IED explosion at the age of 22. His mother Charon spoke about how she never really got to know the fine young man she raised as he grew to be an adult.

Between deployments, he was unable to spend much time at home. Despite the devastating loss, Charon and her husband Tom find comfort in their faith and the belief that lives were changed through their son's story.

After Thomas's passing, Charon began a nonprofit that sent care packages to soldiers on the front lines of battle because she remembered how much Thomas loved receiving things from home. Through her efforts, she was able to send more than 5,000 care packages to soldiers overseas over an 8-year span.

Charon's reminder to us is that, for families like hers, Memorial Day isn't a happy holiday or just another day at the pool or cooking out. It is a day to remember heroes like her son Thomas, who answered the call to serve and courageously laid down his life for ours.

You know, President Franklin Roosevelt once said:

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.

May we as Americans be a Nation that remembers the sacrifices made for the many freedoms that we all enjoy—not just on Memorial Day, but every day of the year.

May we never forget those like Johnnie Laurie or Thomas Rivers who didn't allow freedom to die on their watch, and may we hold their families near to our hearts as we go into this Memorial Day weekend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

BORDER ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, as though with the voice of God, I have been recognized. And I rise to address what just happened here. Senator

SCHUMER's failed attempt to resurrect a failed immigration bill in a bipartisan beatdown.

But, first, let me recite some numbers: In fiscal year 2021, there were 387,000 known "got-aways." In fiscal year 2022, there were 606,131 known "got-aways." In fiscal year 2023, there were 670,000 known "got-aways."

Because of Joe Biden's disastrous border policies, there are nearly 10 million people who have crossed our border illegally, dispersed throughout the United States—many of whom we have no idea who they are, where they are from; some given court dates. We hope they return sometime in the 2030s.

Thousands and thousands of Chinese nationals have illegally crossed our border since Joe Biden took office. The DEA has stated that the most ruthless Mexican cartels now operate in all 50 States. The American people are more at risk now from a terror attack than they have been since 9/11.

How did we get here? The answer is pretty simple: Joe Biden reversed nearly every successful Trump-era policy that was working to secure our border. We had a 45-year low in illegal immigration at the end of 2020.

That has all changed. His administration reversed the "Remain-in-Mexico" policy. His administration attempted to sell border wall materials that had been sitting and rusting at an extreme discount. He paused deportations. He took nearly a hundred actions in his first hundred days to weaken our border security and signal to the cartels that our border was open for their business, a deadly business.

I said from the beginning that Joe Biden has all the authority he needs to shut the border down right now. He could have shut down the border as illegal immigration numbers shattered record after record; but he didn't. And he won't. And now the American people are seeing the absolute carnage caused by Joe Biden's policies.

Democrats are attempting to give Joe Biden cover by wasting our time on this vote that we just saw that went down on a vote for a bill that had already failed. Why? I think some people actually believe in open borders. They have no real problem with this. They believe that borders are arbitrary lines on a map. But the risk for Americans are real.

And what happened on this floor—I try to draw some analogy. Seinfeld was a great show—great show—and it was famously cast as a show about nothing. This week was a show about nothing: no vehicles, no amendments on anything substantive that could help the American people—just this kabuki theater that we just witnessed.

My criticisms of that bill—that we won't hear now, thankfully—are the same as they were in February. This bill would have changed the jurisdiction from immigration law related cases from Texas to Washington, DC.

This "break glass" emergency authority is a disaster. This bill would