

co-opted religious institutions that it can control while suppressing independent religious groups. This includes Tibetan Buddhists. Chinese officials have demolished a number of Tibetan monastery buildings and placed atheist Communist Party officials in important administrative positions.

Tibetan Buddhists are very peaceful so they pose no threat to the government except in their moral authority and their credibility in undercutting the government's legitimacy in that region. In Tibet, there have been reports of forced disappearances, arrests, torture, physical abuse, and prolonged detentions without trial of monks, nuns, and other individuals due to their religious practices.

Authorities arrest individuals for possessing photographs of or writings by the Dalai Lama.

Also, practitioners of Falun Gong, which traces its roots to the traditional Chinese religion, have been labeled "members of a cult."

Freedom House independently verified 933 cases of Falun Gong adherents sentenced to prison terms of up to 12 years in just a 3½-year period, often just for exercising their rights to freedom of expression in addition to freedom of religion. Thousands more are believed to be held at various prisons and extralegal detention centers. There are reports of cases of torture, disappearance, brainwashing, rape, and death of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese Communist Party.

When a person dies while imprisoned, their families are told that their loved ones committed suicide or died of a disease, but the bodies are cremated before evidence can be gathered.

In recent years, there have been credible reports of Falun Gong practitioners and other political prisoners having been victims of forced organ harvesting.

Christianity also has had a deep historical and cultural impact on modern China, but in the mid-20th century, the Communist Party suppressed the religion. The growth of Protestantism in China in recent decades has led to the emergence of what we call house churches. These are independent and not part of one of the state-sanctioned, Chinese Communist Party-controlled churches.

The Chinese Communist Party has clamped down on Christian activities outside of registered venues, banned unauthorized evangelization online, and intensified its crackdown on unauthorized Protestant meeting points and underground Catholic churches. Christians seeking to practice their faith free of government control have to fear their identities being discovered and facing punishment or imprisonment.

By contrast, Taiwan has complete religious freedom. Note that the new Taiwanese President, Mr. Lai, is part of a vibrant Protestant minority. I met him a few years ago when he was Vice President-elect, and he came to Washington for the National Prayer Breakfast.

Aside from geopolitics, it is only natural that Americans would sympathize with Taiwan over communist China because of religious freedom in Taiwan versus no religious freedom in communist China.

To repeat the words of John Quincy Adams, "Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions and her prayers be."

So I have laid out for my colleagues the multipolar world that Xi and Putin want versus the freedom that is declared in our Declaration of Independence and practiced here, and by practicing it here, we hope we are an example for other countries that prefer democracy and religious freedom.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD).

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on July 30, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 221. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to concur in House message to accompany S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021, Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act. •

WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is the day of the whistleblower.

But every day should be the day of the whistleblower.

I have asked every President since Ronald Reagan to hold a Rose Garden ceremony to honor whistleblowers. No President has done so.

That is a shame because Presidents should view whistleblowers as making their job easier not more difficult. It is often the whistleblower who gives the unvarnished truth relating to government misconduct. And once that misconduct is known, it can be taken care of.

When fraud and waste are exposed, the executive branch should bend over backwards to eliminate it. Instead, the executive branch often stupidly attacks the whistleblowers for courageously putting themselves out there.

And for those in the FBI like Marcus Allen, retaliation is holding your security clearance hostage.

Let me give some other recent examples. Department of Homeland Security whistleblowers alerted me of this administration's failure to implement the DNA Fingerprint Act. This failure allowed migrants with criminal histories to enter the United States unchecked, putting our communities at risk. The Department of Homeland Security has violated Federal law. The Office of Special Counsel substantiated the allegations and the retaliation against the whistleblowers for their disclosures. On July 23 this year, I held an oversight roundtable to highlight the whistleblower disclosures and the resulting retaliation they have suffered.

Whistleblowers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives brought to light that the Agency wasted millions of taxpayer dollars. How so? The ATF illegally misclassified human resource positions as law enforcement and paid these employees enhanced benefits they weren't entitled to.

Whistleblowers also provided my office with records revealing the Department of Health and Human Services failed to vet sponsors for unaccompanied alien children. They provided detail never before known to the public. On July 9 this year, I held an oversight roundtable with some of these whistleblowers, giving them a public voice to share their stories for the benefit of these kids. Agencies just don't like being exposed, apparently even if the lives of children are on the line. We have to change that culture.

Whistleblowers recently provided me with internal FBI documents of State Department incompetence and obstruction. Specifically, documents show the State Department actively interfered with FBI operations. For example, the State Department prevented the FBI from arresting known terrorists, members of Iranian proliferation networks, and other criminals providing material support for Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The Department did this because it didn't want the FBI's arrest of the Iranians to upset the pending Iran Nuclear Deal. I made these FBI documents public on May 21, 2024, to prove the facts of the matter.

And most recently, I have made records and video public relating to the Trump assassination attempt. I obtained those records from local law enforcement officers, not the Federal Government. The information that I have made public is usually because of whistleblowers.

The government rarely provides information to Congress upon request. Simply put, that is a slap in the face to

not just Congress but the American people. Accordingly, it is critically important that all Federal Agencies promote openness and transparency. They must also ensure Federal employees know their rights to blow the whistle on wrongdoing, including to Congress.

That is why I have fought hard to ensure Federal Agencies include the anti-gag provision as required by law. That provision is a notice to employees of their rights to disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct to Congress, an inspector general, and the Office of Special Counsel.

For example, the ATF failed to include this notification in guidance sent to their employees. I demanded they issue updated guidance, which they subsequently did. Further, in March of this year, I wrote to all 74 inspectors general requesting they conduct a review of their Agency's nondisclosure policy, forms, and similar agreements to ensure it includes the anti-gag provision as required by law.

The task of supporting whistleblowers doesn't start and stop on Whistleblower Appreciation Day. It is a full time, year-round job. Last year, I talked about the legislation I have introduced this Congress to do just that, from the Securities and Exchange Commission Whistleblower Reform Act to the False Claims Amendment Act to the IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act and others.

Whistleblowers are brave men and women who perform an invaluable public service. Whistleblowers must be protected; they are patriots. Dating back to the Revolutionary War, the first whistleblowers reported fraud and misconduct. Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse.

As I stand here today in July 2024—a long way's away from the Revolutionary War—the same sentiment remains. I am proud to have introduced the National Whistleblower Appreciation Day resolution for the 11th year in a row on behalf of the entire Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus.

And I will tell you this again:

One day, all of us together, we are going to get that Rose Garden ceremony.

SPRING 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I encourage all Americans to read the newly published Spring 2024 edition of Public Service Review. The Review is the quarterly publication of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, an exemplary organization, which I am honored to support as a member of its Board of Trustees. In the Public Service Review, readers can explore work from students, faculty, and leadership of Brandeis University's Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation (ENACT) Program. That initiative shares the Stennis Center's mission: encouraging students to pursue careers in public service.

We are thrilled to publish writing and interviews by undergraduate students. In the pages of this issue, readers will find work from Julian Ober of the University of Maine, Vishni Samaraweera of Georgetown University, and Tomas Cruz Villalvazo of the University of Utah. They were joined by a number of Brandeis students, including Elaina Pevide, Ravi Simon, Dalia Moran, and Arianna Jackson, who all submitted thoughtful pieces.

The Assistant Director of ENACT, David J. Weinstein, also contributed, as did Lynne Chandler Garcia of the U.S. Air Force Academy. This edition also features interviews with State Representative Ambureen Rana of Maine and State Senator Becca Rausch of Massachusetts.

These students and leaders showcase the incredible work of the ENACT program, and they encourage those who serve in communities nationwide. It is our hope that they will also inspire others to lives of service. On behalf of my fellow Board members, U.S. Senator CHRIS COONS, Mr. Tom Daffron, U.S. Representatives TRENT KELLY and TERRI SEWELL, and Mike Sommers, I urge all audiences to visit www.stennis.gov to read the Spring 2024 issue of Public Service Review.

REMEMBERING SHERIFF JOHN PLASSE

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and career of a true hero, Sheriff John Plasse.

For four decades, Sheriff Plasse lived to serve and protect his community and his country. He died on Wednesday, July 24, after a battle with cancer. Sheriff Plasse served in law enforcement in Terre Haute and Vigo County since 1985. He served 33 years in the Terre Haute Police Department, including 11 as chief of police, before retiring from the department in 2018. But he was not done working to keep his community safe. In 2018, he was elected Vigo County Sheriff, a position he held until his passing.

Sheriff Plasse also served 34 years in the Indiana Army National Guard. He rose to the rank of sergeant major with the 38th Infantry Division before retiring in November 2017. He was a veteran of the War in Afghanistan and, among his many commendations, awarded a Bronze Star.

While his military and law enforcement careers are impressive, he was also beloved in Terre Haute for his selfless service in the community. He served on numerous boards and volunteered for countless charitable organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, the United Way of Central Indiana, the Hamilton Center, the Special Olympics, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, to name just a few.

Sheriff Plasse is survived by his wife Julie, three children, and three grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the countless individuals whose lives were changed as a result of his service.

It is my honor to recognize Sheriff John Plasse for his life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. ALLEN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Maryland resident John R. Allen as he retires from Federal service after 20 years in the Marine Corps and 20 years at the Peace Corps.

Mr. Allen served as the Chief of the Global Crime Response and Analysis Unit for the Peace Corps, a U.S. Government Agency that sends American Volunteers to serve alongside host communities in roughly 60 countries around the world. John was a key adviser to multiple Directors of the Peace Corps on all areas of the Agency's global safety and security program. Throughout his 20 years with the Agency, he traveled extensively representing Peace Corps and directly supporting Volunteers in Africa and Latin America.

Mr. Allen joined the Peace Corps after retiring from the Marine Corps, where he served honorably at home and abroad as a senior noncommissioned officer. He has remained active in the veterans community as the leadership liaison for the Peace Corps' Veterans Employee Resource Group. He was also an active member of the Interagency Veterans Advisory Council (IVAC), comprised of Active-Duty and veteran representatives of approximately 100 departments and Agencies, which proudly supports the recruitment, acclimation, retention, and promotion of veterans, Reservists, National Guard personnel, and military spouses in the Federal civilian workforce. Collectively, IVAC advocates for the interests of over 500,000 veteran civilian employees.

Mr. Allen has a BA in psychology from the University of South Carolina and an MS in management from Troy University. He completed the Key Executive Leadership Program at American University and is currently working on his dissertation for the doctor in ministry degree at Denver Seminary. John resides in Urbana, MD, with his wife Susan. They are the proud parents to two adult sons, a daughter-in-law, and two rambunctious grandboys Miles John and Austin David.

I am honored to represent such an exemplary civil servant and military veteran. Please join me in congratulating John R. Allen for his Federal service, his contributions to the Peace Corps and the Marine Corps, and the larger U.S. veteran and national service community and in wishing him well as he transitions into his new position at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING TRUENORTH STEEL

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, it is my honor to recognize one of North Dakota's legacy businesses celebrating 80