

playing when an officer drove up to him, jumped out of the car, and shot him within 3 seconds of leaving his vehicle.

I talked to other police officers 10 years ago when this happened, and they bemoaned the fact that that child died. They talked about how no well-trained officer should ever let that happen, that good police officers would have never made that fatal mistake. But this was not a good police officer. This officer had been fired from his previous police job. He had been deemed unfit for his duty in another jurisdiction and then left that jurisdiction and applied for a job. Was there a database in our Nation that that department could have checked to see if this officer was fired for just cause in another jurisdiction? No.

This was a decade ago. This was a little boy. But here I am, talking about this problem and the death of another American, an unnecessary murder of another American, a preventable murder of another American by someone who should have never been hired by a police department.

I appreciate that President Biden has taken steps to correct this issue. I appreciate that under his administration, in America, we established a police officer accountability database to try to track bad officers and make sure they are never hired again so that they never put people in danger again. But right now, departments aren't required to report these officers into that database. They are not required to check that database before hiring an officer. This is the change that is needed. It reflects best practices. It reflects what police leadership, police professionals, and others have said we should have in America.

This is not some effort to federalize police departments. It is simply about keeping the public safe and officers safe. It is about doing things that deepen the trust and the faith in those who are sworn to protect us. We have rules and laws for doctors, rules and laws for lawyers, rules and laws for manufacturers, rules and laws for the energy sector, rules and laws even for the media sector. How is it that we can't demand that every police department has to check a database to make sure the person they are hiring or thinking of hiring doesn't have something in their background that puts the community they serve in danger? This is not too much to ask. This is common sense.

Every police chief I have ever talked to does not want to hire an officer that has been fired for misconduct or conduct unbecoming an officer from another jurisdiction. It is just common sense.

We should not resist the kinds of changes in this body that could make sure that deaths like Tamir Rice's or Sonya Massey's do not happen. It is change that is overdue.

When George Floyd was murdered 4 years ago, our country had a reck-

oning. So many people from every end of the political and ideological spectrum acknowledged that we could improve police accountability. We heard this from every sector. People came out in every State demanding that we take commonsense measures to improve one of the most important jobs we have.

I sat with police leaders who talked about steps we could take—common sense—to improve the profession, to create higher standards that our officers could meet because they want to. But here we stand again on the Senate floor talking about another death that could have been prevented by a commonsense measure.

I worry about this reality that we still live in a nation where parents teach their children—their often young, African-American children—survival techniques about police encounters; have a conversation with them that shouldn't necessarily have to be had, but when you have example after example, like with Sonya Massey, who herself evidenced fear when the police came to her house; a 12-year-old boy shot because of a toy gun; a woman afraid when she calls the police.

I have been fighting for greater police accountability my entire time in the Senate, and I stand with others who have done the same. One of those people is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. Today, we mourn her loss. She passed on July 19. With her passing, our country lost an extraordinary, fierce leader in Congress. In the nearly three decades she spent in Congress representing the people of District 18 of Texas, she fought not only for her constituents but for Americans across the country.

She was the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. Ms. Jackson Lee was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1950. She went on to graduate with a degree in political science from Yale University and a law degree from the University of Virginia. This was not a thing that many Black women at the time did, but she broke down barriers of race and gender that kept so many like her from these elite institutions.

She went on to become a municipal judge before she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994. One of the very last bills Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced was the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

She had not stopped fighting for what she believed was right to raise standards of accountability, to increase transparency, to create higher standards of professional conduct.

I received a voice message from Sheila Jackson Lee just days before her death. I could hear in her voice the illness that was taking over her body. I could hear her voice shaking but still just as strong and defiant. And one of the last things she said to me in that voice message days before she died was calling on me to not give up, to press forward with the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

I think about that. I played this message over and over on my phone, that the last thing she said to me was about the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act; that one of her last communications with her colleagues, one of her last calls to a U.S. Senator days before her death was about police accountability, about police transparency, about raising professional standards.

I know she would have condemned the death of Sonya Massey. I know she would have stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and demanded change.

She would have said that her death would not be in vain, and she would have said that we need to create a mandatory database that has to be checked before you hire officers in the United States of America. She would have demanded that the principles and pillars of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act be put into place.

So I will heed her call. In the coming days, I will reintroduce the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act here in the Senate with my colleagues, to bring about that accountability, to bring about that transparency, to raise those standards of professionalism.

I will work to make sure there is not a day again in America where people unnecessarily die; where when people call the police, they can be confident that they will be protected, not shot dead; where the most important profession, perhaps, in our Nation, those who every day get up and go to bed with this firm commitment to protect us; where thousands of officers every single day do not have their professions besmirched by that narrow few who violate our values, who abuse their position, and commit crimes like the one that killed Ms. Massey.

There is an old proverb from the Old Testament that says:

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act.

It is within our power to act. It is our duty to act, to do the commonsense things that could prevent the deaths of people like Tamir Rice and Sonya Massey. It is an oath we take in this body. It is the call of our country, first and foremost, to defend our citizens.

These tragedies must stop. These unnecessary deaths must stop. We must rise in this moment to be instruments of justice, to make sure that the oath we swear is more true and more real that we are a nation of liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 594, Dafna Hochman Rand, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the

motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dafna Hochman Rand, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rand nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 764 and 765, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard, that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under Title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

John C. Vann

IN THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Subject to qualifications provided by law, the following for Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

To be rear admiral

Chad M. Cary

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

*PN440—2 COAST GUARD nomination of ANDREW D. RAY, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

*PN1803 COAST GUARD nominations (7) beginning NICHOLAS G. DERENZO, and ending ISAAC YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

*PN1804 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning Douglas D. Graul, and ending Benedict S. Gullo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

*PN1900 COAST GUARD nomination of Philip J. Granati, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

*PN1901 COAST GUARD nominations

(4) beginning DEREK A. WILLIAMS, and ending TRENT J. LAMUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and ap-

peared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 574, David O. Barnett, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the District of New Mexico; that the Senate vote on the nomination, without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President, be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David O. Barnett, Jr., of New Mexico, to be United States Marshal for the District of New Mexico for the term of four years.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Barnett nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOOKER. Madam 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. Madam President, I was absent on Monday, July 29, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 220. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 702, Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

I was absent on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 222. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture for Executive Calendar No. 708, Stacey D. Neumann, of Maine, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Maine.

I was absent on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 223. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for Executive Calendar No. 708, Stacey D. Neumann, of Maine, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Maine.

I was absent on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 224. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture for Ex-

ecutive Calendar No. 710, Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of New York.

I was absent on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 225. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for Executive Calendar No. 710, Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of New York.

I was absent on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 226. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 709, Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 227. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation Executive Calendar No. 709, Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 228. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Representative to the United Nations, and the Deputy Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations.

I was absent on Thursday, August 1, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 229. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Representative to the United Nations, and the Deputy Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations.

I was absent on Thursday, August 1, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 230. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to Cal. No. 349, H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. •

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.