

being under constant attack by people who want to entice you to do things that you should not do or share with you information you would just as soon not see.

Then I went to Austin, where I met with my former colleague on the Texas Supreme Court, Nathan Hecht, and Travis County District Judge Julie Kocurek. Judge Kocurek is actually a survivor of an assassination attempt. She was a district judge in Austin, TX, Travis County, and somebody who was a criminal defendant on her docket decided he wanted to assassinate her.

We met with her as well as other local leaders in a roundtable to try to figure out what we can do to try to keep our judges, our court personnel, and the public that needs to have access to our courts—how we can keep them safe. This includes my Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act, which passed the Senate in June and would establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center to provide technical assistance, training, and threat monitoring for State and local judges and court personnel.

We all know the Federal Government only handles a small fraction of what the judicial branch handles, and most of that is handled by the judiciary at the State level. So it is really important to provide best practices and resources to our judges, court personnel, and the public that needs to have access to courts and access to justice around our country.

I was then glad to join our good friend Senator JOHN BOOZMAN from Arkansas, who is the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, in the Rio Grande Valley. That is the southernmost tip in the middle of Texas, and it is one of the most prolific regions for agriculture in our State. We heard from farmers and ranchers about the importance of passing a timely and strong farm bill, and in particular we heard about the challenges they face because Mexico continues to withhold water that it owes the United States under a 1944 water treaty.

Then, in Round Rock, just outside of Austin, I visited with business leaders and community members on economic issues important to Central Texas, including the looming deadline to fund the Federal Government.

Then I had a chance to travel to Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX. Parkland Hospital is famous because that is where John F. Kennedy was treated after he was shot, tragically, in Dallas. It is a huge, huge healthcare enterprise. I joined healthcare leaders, law enforcement, as well as two mothers who tragically lost their daughters to fentanyl poisoning, to discuss the impact of my Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act, which would have a positive impact on our efforts to eradicate this silent killer from our communities. I introduced this bipartisan legislation last month to make it easier for law enforcement to take action against

criminal cartels' use of illicit pill presses by requiring that those presses be engraved with serial numbers so that law enforcement can better track them.

While I am glad the online safety bills and my Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act have advanced out of this Chamber, there is still a lot of work that Senator SCHUMER, who sets the schedule in the Senate, has left until the last minute.

As I heard from my constituents about some of these events in the State, Texans are rightly concerned about the Senate's inaction on critical priorities like the farm bill and like additional legislation to combat the scourge of fentanyl poisoning. Fentanyl actually now is responsible and the main leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 years old. Then, they are also worried about whether the government is going to remain open and be appropriately funded, and they understand the impact of short-term funding bills and its negative impact on our military and on our national security.

So that is why I don't understand why Senator SCHUMER continues to waste our time on show votes and ignore predictable deadlines that lead to inevitable drama about a potential shutdown when none of that is necessary. So I hope Senator SCHUMER will take advantage of the next 10 days that remain this month to do something about it rather than just kick the can down the road once again.

I yield to my colleague from Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Missouri.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,
ATTACKS

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, before I get into my remarks, I would just like to say a few words on this 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

Twenty-three years ago, America and the world changed forever. We will never forget those who lost their lives, including the first responders who rushed into danger that day to save many lives. At a time when first responders are running into buildings and people are running out, we appreciate their sacrifice and their service.

May God bless and continue to bless this beautiful Nation and all that she stands for, now and forever.

AUGUST WORK PERIOD

Madam President, this August, I made a point to meet with and hear from Missourians across the State. These conversations are always valuable in my work here in Washington. They certainly influence the decisions and the votes cast right here on the Senate floor.

I was proud to host a roundtable with industry leaders in geospatial technologies and unveil my plan to attract more talent to St. Louis and transform the gateway city into the defense tech capital of the United States. Our

roundtable included representatives from a wide array of companies, universities, geospatial agencies—among them, NGA, TGI, Scale AI, and many others.

Geospatial technologies are critical to so many different industries, both civilian and military. Their application to defense technologies and GPS mapping cannot be overstated.

St. Louis is already home to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which is building a new campus and working to revitalize North St. Louis, private investment through the Taylor Geospatial Institute, and other private and public geospatial and artificial intelligence assets. There is no reason St. Louis can't become the defense tech hub of our country, and that is why I am working to continue accomplishing that exact goal.

I was in Jefferson City to hear directly from advocates of those living with disabilities—stakeholders including the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Special Olympics Missouri, and many other groups and individuals—on how we as lawmakers can better advocate for those with disabilities here in Washington.

This community has played an important role in my life over the years. I ran for office to help people like my son, Stephen, who has special needs. I earned political office to improve the lives of Missourians in our State, and that especially includes our most vulnerable citizens, whom I will never stop fighting for here in the U.S. Senate.

I also visited and toured Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital and their state-of-the-art facility, discussing all the advancements they were making in care services for children in the broader St. Louis community. This incredible facility is accomplishing great things for children and their families as they make the transition from the hospital to their homes.

I also spoke with the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership in Waynesville, MO, on the incredible work they do at Fort Leonard Wood and the surrounding community and not just for Missouri in that regard but for our country. Home to over 5,000 Active military members, many of whom collectively train nearly 80,000 service-members and civilians each year, Fort Leonard Wood is a proud military community that is absolutely vital to our Nation's military training, architecture, and our national security.

It is because of these great warriors that we remain a bright, shining beacon to the world of freedom and we can live and thrive in the greatest country there ever was. Places like Fort Leonard Wood has served as a critical role of training the next generation of American soldiers as they confront newer threats and never-ending threats abroad, among those, the Chinese Communist Party, North Korea, and Iran, because without strong leadership here at home, these hostile regimes will

continue to undermine and test America's limits, making all of us less safe.

It is incumbent upon those here today that we continue the important work of ensuring that our soldiers have the support and resources necessary to continue keeping America safe.

Summer wouldn't be the same without the Missouri State Fair, a great opportunity to meet with and listen to Missourians from across our State. There was truly a lot of fun and food in Sedalia. I get asked that question: What is your favorite thing about the State fair? It has got to be the food, from the Cattlemen's Beef House to the Pork Palace and everywhere in between that has things like fried Oreos and everything else you can imagine that is fried. We were also proud to host our inaugural "Pork Steaks and Policy" at the State fair.

Safe to say, it was a success. A lot of food was eaten. But more importantly, we had a lot of great conversations, hearing directly from farmers and ranchers across Missouri on how I can continue to advocate for them here in the Senate.

Of course, there were also some fun moments from August, including visiting with Coach Eli Drinkwitz, the head football coach at Mizzou, the No. 6-ranked Mizzou Tigers, and the campus's new athletic director, Laird Veatch, and touring their new facilities.

Lastly, I was proud to join a group of bipartisan Senators on a congressional delegation to Asia, particularly Japan and South Korea, to better understand how the United States could continue to work with our partners in the Indo-Pacific, particularly as China continues to become an increasing threat to those countries and our country.

Meeting with leaders in Japan and South Korea gave us all a frontline view of what is needed in the region and how the United States, and especially Missouri, can continue to be a strong ally in the Indo-Pacific.

When I asked Missourians for their vote not even 2 years ago, I promised that I would fight for them. The most important part of my job will always be serving the people of my State. It was great to be back home in August, and I look forward to taking those conversations I had with Missourians and addressing their concerns right here in Washington.

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. 780, Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United

States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Laphonza R. Butler, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

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 Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Ernst	Mullin
Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Rounds	Vance
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary Kay

Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the confirmation of four pending U.S. attorney nominations.

Currently, in the United States, we have 85 U.S. attorneys. There are several from my State, and depending on your population, it really indicates how many numbers you have. Those U.S. attorney nominations are filled by the incumbent President of the United States. Recommendations are made to the U.S. Senate, and we advise and consent on those nominations. After examinations of their backgrounds, we vote on these individuals to become U.S. attorneys.

Now, we have an agreement that has endured for a number of Presidents over a number of years which says that these will be fairly routine—in fact, very routine. The fact is that each one of the U.S. attorney nominations goes through a review by the Senate Judiciary Committee, by both Democrats and Republicans, and if they pass that review without controversy, they move to the floor for a vote.

To give you an idea of how that works for the Members on the other side who are relatively new to the Senate, when President Donald Trump made nominations of U.S. attorneys, he made 85 nominations. Each one of those nominations came to the floor of the U.S. Senate, and they were approved by voice vote, unanimous consent. In other words, not even a rollcall was required. It was the routine approval of U.S. attorneys' nominations in a situation where a body like the Senate would have a majority of Democrats but approve a nomination from a Republican President by voice vote—no controversy moving forward.

Why is it even important to fill these vacancies? Because these 85 U.S. attorneys are literally the people who implement the policies of the Department of Justice. If the Department of Justice of the United States decides that we are going to have a serious effort under a President to go after fentanyl, for example, or narcotics, for example, or some crimewave in another area, it is the U.S. attorney who runs the play. He is the quarterback in that U.S. attorney's district. So these turn out to be fairly critical.

Some of us stayed up late last night to watch the debate, and in that debate, there was a discussion of crime in the United States and what we were going to do to stop it. Well, both of the candidates—regardless of party—would be in favor of reducing crime. I am assuming that every one of my colleagues who is on the floor now and wishes to speak would put themselves in the same category. We want to stop crime in our States and in our country,