

Good Energy Collective, American Nuclear Society, Fusion Industry Association, and General Atomics.

In conclusion, if Matt Marzano is confirmed—and I hope he will be—the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be fully empowered to make sure that we seize the day with respect to this crucial moment for the future of nuclear energy for our country.

I urge our colleagues to join me in confirming Matthew James Marzano as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

With that, I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MARZANO NOMINATION

Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Marzano nomination?

Mr. CARPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 323 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Ricketts
Boozman	Graham	Risch
Braun	Grassley	Romney
Britt	Hagerty	Rounds
Budd	Hawley	Rubio
Capito	Hoeben	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sinema
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Blackburn	McConnell	Vance
Marshall	Mullin	

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider be considered made

and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

12TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK SHOOTING

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, earlier today, I got to spend a little time with a close friend of mine, Sam Saylor. As I was talking to Sam—resident of Hartford, CT, the city in which I live—I was thinking about who his son Shane might be today.

Shane had a tough life. Shane was born with a birth defect in which one of his arms was essentially inoperable. He grew up in really poor circumstances. He was often bullied. But Shane had a spirit about him—a fighting spirit sometimes that got him in trouble but a spirit to rise above his circumstances, to do something with his life.

His mom—strong mom—Sam's dad clearly gave him a vision of what his life could be, such that when he was 20 years old, he had started a small business. He was buying cars that needed to be rehabbed and fixed up. He would do that, and he would sell them to make a little bit of a profit. It was an extraordinary endeavor for a kid who lived that kind of life, who had those kinds of obstacles.

I think about 12 years later—Shane would have been in his early thirties today. What would Shane be doing? Would he be running an autobody shop? Would he be an active member of his community? Would he be making a difference in the way that his father and his mother have? Shane could have been a life-changer, but he is not because on October 20, 12 years ago, Shane died. Shane died when he was selling one of these cars. He was meeting a prospective buyer. He brought his girlfriend along, and one of the group of kids who were with the buyer said something mean or coarse about Shane's girlfriend. Some words were exchanged. Shane, as he sometimes did, threw a punch. In the other group's car, there happened to be an illegal gun. They were furious that Shane had thrown that punch. They went and got that gun, and they shot Shane dead in cold blood.

Shane's mom got there before he died, at the scene. He died at the hospital. I just think about who Shane would be today, what great things he would be doing.

Two months later, the entire world woke up to the epidemic of gun violence in this country. Shane's murder happened on October 20, 2012. And then on December 14, 2012, the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School happened; 20 first graders and 6 educators lost their lives.

I never really know what to say every year when I come down here to give this speech. But because this is the year that those kids would have been going to college and voting for the first time—this year of transition into

adulthood—it is worth thinking about who they would be today and what amazing things they might be getting ready to do in their adulthood.

Catherine Hubbard, as early as preschool, just adored animals. And she knew, even when she was 6 years old, that her purpose in life was to protect animals. She would catch butterflies and put them in her hand and whisper to them, "Tell your friends I am kind." And then she would let them go. She made business cards—she is 6. She made business cards for "Catherine's Animal Shelter," because she knew that is what she was going to do. She was going to save animals as an adult.

Chase Kowalski was a jock. He loved to run and swim and bike so much that that year that he died, when he was 6 years old, he asked his parents to find him a triathlon to compete in. He was 6. You wonder, what triathlon—he trained for a triathlon. He ran in that triathlon. He swam in that triathlon. He biked in that triathlon. And he won his age group.

That kind of indomitable spirit—the willingness to tackle challenges, so big—that is a recipe for success in life. What would Chase Kowalski be getting ready to do right now? What big challenges in the world would he see as an opportunity to confront? What a difference might he be making in the world, having displayed those really rare characteristics as a 6-year-old?

Emilie Parker was a supertalented artist who didn't travel anywhere without her colored pencils and her markers. She was very attuned to kids around her who weren't feeling well, who were feeling sad. And her immediate instinct when she would run into a friend who wasn't feeling good that day was to paint them a picture or draw them a picture to make them feel better.

This month, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary broke ground on what will become Catherine's Learning Barn. And over the last 10 years, the not-for-profit that her parents set up in her name has conducted thousands of opportunities and workshops for kids to commune with animals.

There is a Race4Chase Kids Triathlon today. And so there are children all over Connecticut who are learning how to overcome obstacles by racing in their first triathlon, named after Chase.

And the Emilie Parker Art Connection has helped support arts programs that are under siege with local budget cuts. Not just in Connecticut, but all over the country kids are getting the opportunity to experience art because of the Emilie Parker Art Connection.

That is a lovely story: the triathlon, the animal sanctuary, the arts program.

But what would Catherine and what would Chase and what would Emilie

have done with their lives? If they lived, what would all of these other beautiful girls and boys, their teachers have done with their lives had they been here today?

It is just unthinkable how many lives are cut off, how much genius is extinguished, how much change could have benefited all of us because we live in a world in which 100, mainly young men and women in their teens and 20s, lose their life every day.

But I am here to tell you that that is not the extent of the story, because it is not just those who die who have their potential extinguished.

I live in the South End of Hartford. The Presiding Officer lives in a neighborhood with high rates of violence, and he knows as well as I do the biology that impacts kids who wake up every single day fearing for their lives.

I have a group of middle schoolers who I sort of call my “neighborhood kitchen cabinet,” and I go and meet with them every month or so to get their feedback on what needs to be better about our neighborhood that we live in. And they regularly tell me that, for them, school is the safe place. It is their walk to and from schools, it is the weekends where they don’t feel safe.

And when you have millions of children in this country who experience that exposure to violence on a daily basis—in Birmingham, AL, 58 percent of people live within a quarter mile of a recent fatal shooting. In New Haven—same number—58 percent of people live within a quarter mile of a recent fatal shooting.

When that is your daily reality, whether you survive the year or not, your brain is impacted as a child in a way that robs you of the basic skills for life’s success: resiliency, grit.

It is not a coincidence that all the low-performing schools in this country are in the violent neighborhoods. It is hard to learn—impossible—for those kids who see gun violence on a daily basis.

And so I wish I knew what Shane would be as an adult. I wish I knew what all of these kids ended up to be—where they were going to college, what their dreams were becoming. But make no mistake. The potential that we are losing in this country because of the choices we make here not to make combating gun violence a priority, it is extinguishing the potential not of 100 people a day—those who lose their lives—but literally tens of thousands. And it is just a choice we make.

Shane’s first small business was a water-selling business. He asked his dad one summer if he could just set up a little stand and sell bottled water to people in the neighborhood. And so his dad fronted him the money and bought him one of those big Costco packs of bottled water. And Shane set out his little stand to sell the water in a neighborhood where, whether he knew it or not, he was already exposed to levels of trauma due to the loss of life that was

happening almost every weekend that summer in Hartford, CT. And he put a sign in front of his table. He named his business Shane Oliver Sells. And he wrote the acronym: SOS.

When you send out an SOS call, right, it is your last chance. Right? You are on that boat. You have tried everything—everything. You tried bailing it out. You tried restarting the engine. You tried plugging the hole. You are done. The only thing left is to signal that SOS call so that somebody in charge will come and rescue you.

I don’t know if Shane knew or didn’t know what his acronym meant. But Shane Oliver sat out there every day in a neighborhood plagued with gun violence with a sign that said “SOS.” And it is representative of the millions of kids all across this country who every single day are sending out an SOS signal to the adults who are supposed to protect them. They are supposed to show up here every day and make it a priority that something like this never, ever happens again—where the kids who live in my neighborhood never, ever fear for their lives walking from their home to school.

That SOS call is being sent out from thousands of neighborhoods all across this country here. That call is being delivered to us. It has been 12 years since we lost these beautiful children and the adults who protected them. And it is about time that we respond to that plea for help.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). The senator from Hawaii.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS  
LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, we are going to try to make some laws in the next week in the area of jurisdiction where I am chair—the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. We have already had the most constructive and productive period for Native people in congressional history. We have invested more in water, in transportation, in broadband, in energy, in culture, and in economic development. We have passed an extraordinary number of bipartisan bills. But we are not done. We have about a week left, and we have a number of bipartisan bills that have to get across the finish line.

So I am going to summarize four bills and try to pass them out of the Senate, and then we will do more work next week on a bipartisan basis to finish out this Congress strong, to make sure we do everything we can for Native people from Hawaii, to Florida, and everywhere in between.

S. 2783, the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendment Act, will amend existing law to add culturally important land to the Miccosukee Tribe’s reservation, and it would also authorize up to \$14 million to protect the land from flooding caused by Federal projects to restore the Everglades National Park ecosystem. This is a commonsense bill

that passed the Indian Affairs Committee unanimously.

S. 2908, the Indian Buffalo Management Act, introduced by Senators HEINRICH and MULLIN, would improve the capacity of Tribes and Tribal organizations to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat and clarify the applicability of State and Federal law. It would establish a \$14 million annual grant program for 7 years within the Department of the Interior to help Tribal nations play a pivotal role in this recovery effort, especially on their own lands.

S. 4365, Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act is the Vice Chair LISA MURKOWSKI’s bill, and it would allow public health officers from the U.S. Public Health Service to offer some veterinary services at IHS facilities to control domestic animal populations and to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases to humans.

Finally, the Tribal Forest Protection Act Amendments Act, also introduced by Vice Chair MURKOWSKI, and it will help to mitigate wildfire threats on Federal lands and Tribal or Alaska Native or corporation forest lands. It removes an existing requirement for mitigation work to take place on Federal lands next to Tribal lands. It also expands eligibility to include Federal lands with special geographic, historical, or cultural significance to a Tribe, and it authorizes up to \$15 million annually through the fiscal year 2030.

We have a couple of other bills that we are not quite done negotiating about, in particular, a bill introduced by Senator-elect GALLEGO—Representative GALLEGO—and Senator LUJÁN to protect children who are victims of abuse and to help Tribes, to help families to recover. We have to do some final clarifications with our counterparts on the Republican side, and I am hopeful that we will land that one as well.

We also have a couple of bills from Senator CORTEZ MASTO having to do with law enforcement.

And, finally, a bill that is arguably the most important out of all of these in terms of its national impact, and that is to establish a commission to reckon with the shameful legacy of boarding schools, in which children were basically incarcerated, removed from their Tribal communities, and forced to speak a language they didn’t speak. Sometimes, forcibly, their hair was cut. Many times they were punished for speaking in their native language or singing their native songs. This is a legacy of abuse at the hands of the Federal Government that we have to reckon with, and this would simply establish a commission to start to delve into this history and come through it to a place of healing, but we are not there yet on those bills.

So here comes the lawmaking part.