

back. We are not saying we don't negotiate things. Negotiate them in the reauthorization of the USMCA, which was one of the President's crown jewels when he negotiated that. I supported it. But why not do it that way instead of rubberstamping everything that he does?

We are also doing this with our constituents by our side, and this means, to me, yes, some of the loudest voices in the room with the big townhalls and people at the microphone. Someone I ran into the other day who was not used to politics called them open mic events. Yeah, those are happening, but what is more important to me is some of the smaller ones in small towns of 1,000 people, in rural towns, with people showing up from local businesses, with people showing up from the Farmers Union, from the Farm Bureau, with people explaining what is going on in their lives in a real way, people telling the stories of trying to call Social Security. Or the two women I met who are in the middle of cancer trials that have been incredibly successful, and no one gave them a chance to live at the University of Minnesota, and they went through this cancer trial, and now they don't know what is going to happen because, while some of those cuts were put off, when you start threatening the universities, when you start threatening the funding that makes those cancer trials possible, when you have so much chaos and you want people to leave and you gave them all these buyouts and you say: Please go away, they are going to find other jobs, especially people in the medical profession where we know it is hard to keep people because they have other opportunities.

That word "opportunity" is really what people ask me about. What do you think we are not talking about enough when it comes to this chaos? You know, maybe we are not talking enough about what is going on in the world. I think people are starting to do that. But I think what people are not talking enough about is this opportunity that we are squandering away because of the mapping of the human genome.

Because of the investments Democrats and Republicans made together the last 11 years, every year we have increased funding to NIH—this incredible development of personalized medicine. So when you find out you have cancer, they can better figure out what your treatment should be and try to use the least invasive procedure possible, as happened to me, so that you can get through this with the breast cancer, with a lumpectomy, and you can get through it with just 5 days of radiation. You can be back at work that night. You may be a little tired, but you can.

That never would have happened 20 years ago. I don't know if I would even have been standing here. But because we invested as a country in the technology and in the work that had to be

done, we are where we are, and now we are on the cusp, thanks to that mapping of the human genome, the personalized medicine, all the information we are gathering, and, yes, AI, if done and used professionally and ethically. We are on the cusp of leading the world again when it comes to curing rare diseases and when it comes to the next great big thing.

But that is not going to happen if we suddenly pull back, and people start quitting all of our research facilities and go do their clinical trials in other countries because it is more dependable, which is what is happening right now. That is not going to happen if FDA inspectors—which it is very hard to get these doctors and medical professionals who can look at medical devices and make a decision. That is not all going to happen if they start leaving because of the negativity coming from the White House about their work, because of the forced departures, because the incentives put in place cannot keep them there, which is what we should be doing rather than incentivizing them to leave.

On the day of the inauguration, I had the opportunity to speak for, like, 4 minutes, and I picked every word really carefully. I knew it was an important event. I knew what my role was—I would have done it no matter who won—but on that day, I made three points, and I think they are still more relevant than ever. I wanted to pick three things that I thought would stand the test of time.

The first was that, before this and certainly now, our democracy has been a hot mess. There is a mess of division, and I think it has gotten much worse. But it is our job as citizens, especially as elected Representatives, to be the "shelter from the storm," to quote Bob Dylan, a great Minnesotan. A shelter from the storm—that is what our democracy should be: a place where people civilly debate things and come up with a compromise and get through all this, and it is still on all of us, especially in the U.S. Senate—what has been called the world's great deliberative body—to do that.

The second thing: In America, the inauguration is not held in a gilded palace. It is not held in an executive office building. It is held in the "People's House." It is held in the Congress for a reason because we have three equal branches of government. That means we have a court that decides the law. That means we have a Congress that should be able to show its weight. And all of these Representatives, duly elected in each State and each congressional district over in the House—and show its authority on behalf of the people whom we represent. That means taking on these tariffs and votes. That means making sure this is a fair budget for the people of this country.

And the third and final thing that I believe will stand the test of time is, remember that day in the Rotunda and there were all those powerful billion-

aires in that room and there were also the people's representatives in that room, but the thing that we had in common, from a freshman Member of the House of Representatives to the President of the United States that day, is the power did not come from within that room; the power came from outside of that room, from the people.

So what you are seeing right now in the form of, yes, townhalls, also in the form of rallies, yes, but also in the form of regular people writing our offices, burning up the phone lines, showing up at events, talking to you at a grocery store, talking to you on Main Street, and they are saying: This is not OK, Senator; this is not OK, Representative; I need you to do something about it. That is the power of the people from outside this building. That is the power of the people who gave us the honor of serving in this building.

So as we look at these first 100 days of this chaos, of these costs going up, of the retirement funds going down, we still have to remember why we are here. So instead of throwing our hands up in the air, either side, and saying: Oh, what can I do? This is our moment in the U.S. Senate to stand up, our moment to stand up on tariffs, our moment to stand up on this budget. All we need is, like, four Republicans in the House of Representatives to stand up and say "enough is enough" and listen to their constituents instead of rubberstamping what this President wants. This is truly our moment to do that.

With that, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING JAY BYERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Maundy Thursday, the Lord called home one of Iowa's best and brightest civic leaders and a beloved husband and father. A native son of northwest Iowa, Jay Byers passed away at age 54.

Maundy is derived from the Latin term *mandatum*, which means commandment. On the night before His betrayal and arrest, Jesus gave his disciples a "new commandment" to love one another as he had loved them, John 13:34. By all accounts, Jay's life was deeply rooted in servant leadership. He lived his life in service to his family and to others, sharing his outsized leadership gifts to make his community, his alma mater, and his State a better place.

I was honored to know Jay for several decades—first, as a congressional staffer to Congressman Leonard Boswell and later as he joined and eventually took the helm of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. In this leadership capacity, our paths would cross many times over the course of a decade to collaborate on issues important to the 11 counties and affiliated chambers for whom he spearheaded priorities, including the partnership's annual visit to Washington, DC.

Through these meetings, I was impressed by Jay's professionalism, energy, and ability to motivate others around him to find common ground for the common good. You might say he was a force of nature who lifted up others through sheer grit and determination. I could always spot him in a crowd wearing his signature bow tie. When he served as president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the organization experienced unprecedented growth, expanding to more than 6,500 members. That growth enabled Jay to flex political muscle and put in the work to achieve game-changing investment in the metropolitan area, including recreational amenities, job growth, and big-ticket infrastructure wins, including the new Des Moines International Airport terminal.

A couple of years ago, Jay took on a new challenge to become president of his alma mater Simpson College in Indianola. Once again, Jay brought the Midas touch and made an immediate impact with faculty, staff, students, and alumni. During his first year on the job, Simpson saw its largest first-year student enrollment in more than a decade and increased first-year student retention. I have no doubt that Jay's energy was contagious on campus. He leaned into the Wesleyan values of faith, learning, and service in his professional and personal life.

His character, work ethic, and loyalty were shaped from an early age. From his days as a musician and an athlete in high school to playing intramural games as a law student at the University of Iowa, to what probably seemed like herding cats in the capital city of Des Moines, Jay embodied the Lord's commandment: to see the goodness in others and to love one another.

His distinguished accomplishments and professional accolades were hard-earned and well-deserved. As the dean of the Iowa congressional delegation, I am proud to say Jay made Iowa a better place.

Barbara and I extend our sympathies to the Byers family and loved ones, including his wife Katie and daughters Sophie and Charlotte. May the ones he loved the most, and who are hurting the most with their loss, find peace in knowing this servant of the Lord is resting in Eternal peace.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 210, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 75, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be Major General in the Air Force, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 211, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 75, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be Major General in the Air Force, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 212, motion to invoke

cloture on Executive Calendar No. 74, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be General for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 213, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 74, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be General for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I would have voted yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, earlier today, I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 80, David Perdue to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, due to my attendance as ranking member at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on mental health care for veterans. I would have opposed Mr. Perdue's confirmation had I been present for the vote, rollcall vote No. 215.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 29 AS #ENDJEWHATRED DAY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize #EndJewHatred Day and to affirm my unwavering support for the Jewish community in Florida, across the United States, and around the world. For millennia, the Jewish people have preserved their religious, cultural, and ethnic identity in the face of persecution, enslavement, genocide, discrimination, and unimaginable adversity. Since the arrival of the first Jewish immigrants to America in 1654, Jewish Americans have made extraordinary contributions to every facet of American life—strengthening our culture, economy, and society.

This alarming trend has inspired a growing grassroots civil rights movement, End Jew Hatred, dedicated to making antisemitism and Jew-hatred unacceptable in contemporary American society. This movement empowers Jews to live openly and proudly, celebrating their heritage without fear of discrimination or attack. On April 29, 2022, the first official #EndJewHatred Day was recognized, marking a national commitment to ending anti-Semitism and building a future free from hatred and bigotry.

Today, I join in that commitment. We must stand firmly against anti-Semitism in all its forms, affirm the inherent dignity of every individual, and ensure that the lessons of history are never forgotten. Therefore, I am proud to recognize April 29 as #EndJewHatred Day, and I call upon all Americans to condemn Jew-hatred, to speak out against anti-Semitism, and to work toward a future of respect, security, and freedom for the Jewish people.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MARTHA ADELAJA

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force, SMSgt Martha Adelaja.

A true champion for our Nation and expert communicator, this New York native and Spelman College graduate brings 21 years of distinguished uniformed service. She has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and an unparalleled ability to navigate complex legislative landscapes in service to our country and the 116th, 117th, 118th, and 119th U.S. Congresses. She left an indelible mark as the first bicameral Department of the Air Force legislative liaison, providing that vital link between Congress and the Department as she effectively advocated for critical defense priorities. Throughout her military career, she has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled airmanship and is the epitome of what a noncommissioned officer should be. As an Army combat veteran prior to her transition to the Air Force in 2007, her career spans two services in numerous of positions critical to U.S. defense and its national security interests worldwide.

As a legislative liaison and action officer in the Department of the Air Force's Senate liaison division, she advised Department senior leadership and helped develop strategic engagement opportunities to advance U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force priorities. Her leadership facilitated seamless collaboration on behalf of the Department of the Air Force across 62 congressional offices, serving as the principal Air Force liaison to 17 Senators and their respective staffs. She supported numerous engagements and delegations spanning 150 Senators, Congressmen, and staffers to showcase Department equities in the United States and abroad. Most notably, her strategic acumen was instrumental in navigating congressional concerns regarding the Air Force's divestment of 261 legacy aircraft and securing \$2.6 billion in cost savings, significantly strengthening the Air Force and Senate relations prior to congressional hearings. Her efforts synchronized nine Department of the Air Force directorates with 98 congressional staffers for modernization efforts and ensured the Department of the Air Force's support of the National Defense Strategy in our return to Great Power Competition.

Senior Master Sergeant Adelaja spearheaded international delegations of congressional members, showcasing critical Air Force capabilities and strengthening partnerships at key events like the bicameral Reagan National Defense Forum. Through her tireless efforts, Senior Master Sergeant Adelaja secured direct engagement between Members of Congress and key decision-makers, including the Secretary of the Air Force, resulting in successful advancements of critical Air Force initiatives. Drawing on her deep understanding of Space Force requirements,