

don't like what Republicans are doing. It is energizing people, not just Democrats but people across the board, to participate in more and more elections of all kinds.

And here in Congress, Republicans are pushing forward on an agenda that will make their political fortunes all the more obvious.

MIDDLE EAST

Mr. President, on Donald Trump's Middle East trip—there is so much going on today. Donald Trump's trip to the Middle East seems less like a Presidential visit and more like a personal business venture—less like a Presidential visit and more like a personal business venture.

Since Donald Trump became President, nobody seems to have benefited more from Middle East deals than Donald Trump himself; golf courses by the beach, hotel openings in Dubai, billions in investments toward Trump stablecoins. All of that enriches Donald Trump. That is what American foreign policy is all about, to make the rich President richer?

And then, of course, there is the matter of half—of a half-billion-dollar private jet that Qatar wants to gift Donald Trump to use as Air Force One. On this Middle East trip, who exactly is Donald Trump working for—for the American people or for his own bottom line or the bottom line of the companies he brought on tour?

Until Attorney General Bondi, a former high-powered lobbyist for Qatar, explains why this robber baron deal was allowed to go through on the Qatar plane, I will not be complicit in the further polarization of DOJ and will hold all political DOJ nominees.

Let me say that again. Until Attorney General Bondi, a former high-powered lobbyist for Qatar, explains why, resolves the issues of this robber-baron deal for Qatar to gift to President Trump a \$400 million airplane with huge security issues—until they resolve those issues in a way that is satisfying to the American people in terms of security and in terms of fairness, I will not be complicit in the further polarization of the DOJ and so am holding all political DOJ nominees.

Now, some of our Republican colleagues, to their credit, have said they have concerns about the Qatar deal. Well, how about showing it? How about showing some outrage? Republicans should join us in getting answers or else they can expect this hold on nominees to persist.

If this were done by a Democrat, you would all be out here screaming. You know how bad it is. You know how bad it is. So speak up.

Maybe that will stop the President, because there is a real national security risk. We cannot let a foreign country—Air Force One is the most complicated, sophisticated plane in the world by a lot because it must protect a President when he or she is communicating and in case there is nefarious action against that plane, God forbid. To let Qatar in on those secrets?

You would have to dismantle the plane they gave us down to every screw and every ratchet to see if they put little devices in there. It is estimated it will end up costing more to make this “gift” secure than it would to buy the new planes from Boeing that in 2 years will be available for delivery.

There are laws on the books precisely designed to prevent the naked corruption of a foreign country paying for a luxury Air Force One. We should apply those laws, and that is why I am deploying these holds.

Americans deserve to know the answer to a basic question: Again, who is Donald Trump working for—the American people or himself?

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BUFFALO SHOOTING

Mr. President, finally, on the anniversary of the shooting in Buffalo, 3 years ago today, 10 beautiful lives were cut short in a horrible, racist, mass shooting at a Tops supermarket on Buffalo's East Side. Buffalo is the city of good neighbors, and nowhere is that truer than on the East Side, but in just 2 minutes, the community was forever changed. Ten of our grandparents, parents, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors went to the grocery store that day—it was a convenient place, a meeting place, the Tops supermarket was—and they never came home.

I remember being in the community in the days and weeks after. I met a young boy, only a few years old, whose father was out buying a birthday cake at the grocery store, and he never came home. It rattles you to your core.

The Buffalo community has done a lot of healing over the last 3 years, but the pain from the shooting still lingers to this day.

After the shooting, I worked hand in hand with the families of those we lost in Buffalo to pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the first gun safety legislation in 30 years, when I had authored the Brady Law. I was the author of that law, which did so much good—and still does so much good—30 years before.

Both sides came together, Democrats and Republicans—it was a good moment—to expand background checks, crack down on gun traffickers, and invest in violence intervention programs to make our streets safer and make our community safer.

Passing this bill was a moment of significant progress in the fight against gun violence. We cannot turn back the clock on this progress we made in honor of those we lost. We have a long way to go and a lot of work to do to rid America of the gun violence epidemic. But the memories—the memories—of those we lost in Buffalo 3 years ago today give me endless motivation to keep pushing.

May God bless Buffalo. God bless all the families impacted by the tragedy 3 years ago today.

May God bless America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have just come to the floor and listened to the minority leader talk about energy. Energy. Do you know why he is in the minority and we are in the majority? It is because of energy, because Joe Biden, former President, told the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, to prioritize the climate over energy that is affordable, available, and reliable. They tried to shove electric vehicles down the throats of every man, woman, and child in America. That is why they are in the minority and we are in the majority. People want affordable energy.

I am here today on the floor, and in the Gallery are many people from the State of Wyoming, our law enforcement officers who are here as part of Police Week ceremonies. They know about affordable energy. They know that this week in Wyoming, graduation week at home, gas at the pump is 50 cents a gallon cheaper than it was a year ago. So if they have to drive the distances around the State of Wyoming to see kids or grandkids for graduations, it is \$10 a tank less to fill up now than it was a year ago when Joe Biden was in the White House and the Democrats were in charge.

Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. We are a powerhouse of energy. And the Presiding Officer's home State of Oklahoma knows a lot about energy as well. We know what the American people want, and it is not what CHUCK SCHUMER is trying to sell here on the floor of the U.S. Senate or across the country.

So when I come to the floor to talk about Police Week and hear the minority leader talking about energy, I just can't help but think about how much better we are now with this effort to unleash American energy than we were the last 4 years when they wanted to keep American energy in the ground and made it so hard for the hard-working men and women who produce that energy to do their jobs in ways that respect the environment, ways that protect the environment. That is what the American people want. That is what they voted for.

And to hear the minority leader come to the floor, when, when Biden left office, energy prices were 30 percent higher than they were the day he came into office—the American people said: We can't afford this. We need a big change.

They got that change on election day, and I am proud to be part of those who are being able to restore American energy dominance.

I know the men and women who listen from around the country and certainly our officers who are here today know how important affordable energy is to our home State of Wyoming.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. President, I rise today during Police Week with a message to our law enforcement officers, and it is one they don't hear often enough. It is a message of “thank you.” Thank you for

the job you do each and every day—and not just to you but to your families as well. Thank you for protecting our communities. Thank you for protecting our children. Thank you for protecting our Nation.

In Wyoming, we are so blessed to have law enforcement officers of bravery, professionalism and capability—incredible individuals. There are 2,340 police officers in Wyoming. They serve across 77 departments in 23 Wyoming counties. For these protectors of peace, keeping our communities safe is more than a job, it is a way of life.

It comes clearly with unique challenges. Wyoming is a State with vast distances. That means officers face long drives, harsh winters, and moments where backup can be miles and miles away. There are also hiring challenges. We see these challenges nationwide. It means longer shifts and heavier burdens and fewer hands to answer the calls for help. Law enforcement officers are tested each and every day, and they deserve our Nation's strongest support.

Today, we honor one such hero: Sergeant Nevada Krinke, who was with the Sheridan Police Department. Sergeant Krinke was a man of strong faith and selflessness. His colleagues said he "always put other people first."

Tragically, last year, he became the first Sheridan officer to lose his life by homicide in the line of duty ever. He is also the first Wyoming officer since 1997 to die in the line of duty. He was only 33 years old.

I attended his funeral last year in Sheridan. The same community that he vowed to protect and to serve showed overwhelming support. More than 1,800 people attended. It was the largest single event in Sheridan, WY, since Queen Elizabeth's visit more than 40 years ago. Strangers stood shoulder to shoulder, often four deep along the streets as the car bearing his body drove by. They waved American flags. They lined the streets as police cars escorted the family to the memorial service at the college.

People came from all around the country to attend even though they had never met and did not know Sergeant Krinke. The local newspaper asked one of them who had come from a long distance why he came. He replied:

I stand for those who have stood for us.

That is the Wyoming spirit. That is the cowboy code. Live each day with courage, take pride in your work, and do what needs to be done.

Sergeant Krinke was a shining example of what it means to serve others. Fittingly, his name will now be etched onto the Roll Call of Heroes at our National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC.

To pay tribute to Sergeant Krinke, 39 law enforcement officers and their families from 13 Wyoming communities are here in Washington today. Many are joining us in the Senate Gallery. With them is the Sheridan chief of po-

lice, Travis Koltiska. Chief Koltiska has worked at the Sheridan Police Department for 24 years. His job has allowed him to make his hometown a safer community and raise his five children with his wonderful wife Mandy. They are also here.

When Sergeant Krinke was killed, Chief Koltiska led the department through its darkest hour.

Thank you, Chief, for all of your actions and for your leadership. Your actions helped so many in Sheridan during a difficult time in the community where you grew up, where you were educated, where you raised your family, and where you continue to serve today. You are a high tribute to every man and woman in blue.

It has been more than a year since that tragic day. To Sergeant Krinke's family, to his wife Karla and their daughter Bella, know this: Your husband, your father was a hero, and we will never forget you.

Law enforcement officers face risks each and every day. The National Fraternal Order of Police reports that in the first 5 months of this year, 109 law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty and 25 were injured in ambush-style attacks.

The solution to safer communities is to support law enforcement, and in the Senate, we are doing exactly that. This year, we passed the Laken Riley Act. It is now the law; the President has signed it. The Laken Riley Act included a provision from Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas that protects police officers from violent illegal immigrant criminals. It requires Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain any illegal immigrant who attacks a police officer. The Senate also passed the HALT Fentanyl Act. This legislation imposes tougher penalties on illicit fentanyl traffickers. It gives law enforcement the tools they need to get deadly drugs off of the streets.

To address recruiting challenges, I support President Trump's effort to increase officer pay, to improve training, and to seek tougher penalties for crimes against law enforcement.

For 4 long years, Americans heard calls from Democrats to defund the police. America must leave those divisive, anti-police policies in the past. We must focus on solutions to strengthen our communities and our law enforcement.

It is not enough to fully fund the police; they must know that we have their backs. They must have both the tools and the trust to serve, and that is exactly what President Trump and Republicans in Congress are doing.

This Police Week, let's renew our commitment to our law enforcement.

Senate Republicans salute you, our officers, and we will always support you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Democratic whip.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as has been noted by my friend and colleague

from Wyoming, this is National Police Week, and I just want to join in his chorus in saluting the law enforcement officials from his State who are here in Washington this week, as well as those in law enforcement from across the Nation. Many have traveled to Washington in their annual trip to honor those lost in the line of duty and to share their priorities with Members of Congress.

If we want safe communities, we need to support our law enforcement and we need to work with our Nation's children, and that includes addressing our Nation's gun violence epidemic. We know that gun violence is the No. 1 cause of police officer line-of-duty death. Currently, the No. 1 cause of death for American kids and teenagers in America is gun violence—not automobile accidents, not cancer. We need to treat this crisis like the national emergency that it is.

Commonsense gun safety measures are overwhelmingly popular with the American people, even with gun owners, including banning high-capacity assault weapons meant for the battlefield, as well as universal background checks and requiring safe storage of guns.

But we know that making communities safer also requires addressing the root causes of violence. The police that I work with in Illinois and in the city of Chicago have made it clear to me: They can do their job, but we cannot arrest our way out of this situation. We need to do more.

Next week marks 3 years since the tragic school shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, TX. On what should have been an ordinary schoolday, 19 innocent children and 2 teachers were gunned down in their classrooms by a man armed with an AR-15.

After that horrific day, Congress came together on a bipartisan basis—a rare bipartisan basis—to pass the most significant gun safety reform in generations. We recognized that too many parents were losing children and too many communities had been irreparably scarred. So when Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, we agreed we must do more to prevent gun violence from happening in the first place.

One of the most prominent provisions of that legislation was Congress's decision to invest in using trained neighborhood and community leaders to break the cycle of violence. With \$250 million in funding, we supported community violence interrupters from the South Side of Chicago to Greensboro, NC; to Baton Rouge, LA; to Houston, TX, and many other communities.

Unfortunately, the DOGE committee had a different idea when it came to preventing violence. Last month, the Department of Justice canceled more than \$800 million in violence prevention, public safety, and victim services grants. That includes millions of dollars in community violence intervention funding that was senselessly cut.