

for decades in the future in terms of our energy security. More production means good-paying jobs, and Joe Biden tried to cripple coal production in America.

His administration imposed a punishing Buffalo Resource Management Plan on Wyoming and on parts of Montana, a plan to stop mining of American coal. Republicans used the Congressional Review Act to restore sanity to energy production. Now, Wyoming coal producers in the Powder River Basin can provide the coal needed to continue powering our Nation.

As a result, miners see a bright future again. Coal production is now up 6 percent since last year. Another critical piece of American energy superiority is nuclear energy. Last year, the Senate passed my bill to ban the import of Russian uranium. President Trump is also supporting uranium production and nuclear energy as part of his all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Uranium production now in the United States is booming. My own State of Wyoming is the second largest producer of uranium in America. Our production has increased nearly 100 percent since last year.

Because of Republican policies, production facilities that were once dormant are now ramping up. That is because they have certainty in terms of business. Nuclear energy fuels 20 percent of American electricity. We need it. More power from all energy sources is going to bring affordable electricity prices in the future.

Remember, Republicans also ended this electric vehicle mandate that the Democrats were trying to foist upon the American people. We got rid of the \$7,500 government subsidies to buy electric vehicles. When California tried to control what cars we can drive, Republicans stepped in to stop them. Electric vehicles are vehicles Americans don't want, can't afford, aren't practical in my home State of Wyoming or the Presiding Officer's State of Montana. We are not going to allow California to force-feed us. They tried. Now Americans are back in the driver's seat.

Republicans also removed Green New Deal regulations. We did it throughout the entire government, and taxpayers saved billions. Additionally, Republicans repealed the Biden-era tax on natural gas. That saves Americans money when they heat their homes. Republicans rolled back Biden-era regulations on home appliances. Now Americans have the freedom to purchase what they want, the appliances that work best for them and their families and their budgets.

The contrast between Republicans and Democrats is dramatic, and we certainly heard it last night with the President's address. Senate Democrats have absolutely no plans or no desire to make energy more affordable. They don't. They want it more expensive so we use less, and that helps their green climate initiatives.

Democrats may talk about affordability. Yet energy costs are the highest in their own home States. Think about it. Senator SCHUMER, he was just on the floor of the Senate, his home State of New York, and he was addressing affordability. He wasn't talking about putting more money in people's pockets. Nope, his home State electricity prices are up 34 percent over the last 6 years. New York's energy prices are 44 percent higher than the national average.

In California, electricity prices are up 58 percent in 5 years. Democrats ought to take responsibility for the higher prices because it is their policies that caused them.

Affordable, reliable American energy is a necessity. It is not a luxury. It is good for our workers; it is good for our economy; and it is good for our safety and our national security.

America is an energy superpower. Under Republicans, we are finally beginning to act like it again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this year, the Trump administration began a calculated show of political theater in force designed to spread fear and terror in Chicago and surrounding Illinois communities.

Masked Federal agents pepper-sprayed, punched, body slammed, and even shot individuals, including U.S. citizens, during violent immigration enforcement actions. Virtually all of what I just said was captured on video. They deployed tear gas canisters against clergy, broke into apartments, zip-tied children.

When they were required by the Federal courts to disclose how many people had been detained recently, they came up with 614 names; 16 of the 600 had any criminal record that presented a threat to public safety whatsoever—16 out of 614.

President Trump has not gone after the worst of the worst as he promised. Instead, he has brought some of the worst, most unprofessional, and most poorly trained Federal law enforcement officers and agents into our city.

Because of his so-called Operation Midway Blitz, children are afraid to go to schools, businesses are closing, and families are being torn apart. Yet the Trump administration shows no regret. They are reveling in the fear and chaos they are creating.

Look at the Border Patrol official Gregory Bovino. On Tuesday, he returned to Chicago after leaving last month and bringing his campaign of fear to North Carolina and New Orleans. As soon as he arrived back in Chicago, Mr. Bovino went to the picket line of Local 705 of the Teamsters at Mauser Packaging Solutions.

These workers are on strike for better benefits, safer working conditions, and measures to prevent ICE from entering their workplace without a Federal judicial warrant.

Bovino brought Federal agents to this picket line to intimidate and interrogate these workers. He laughed in their faces as they demanded better working conditions. In court testimony, Mr. Bovino has praised Federal agents' use of excessive force as "exemplary," even after multiple U.S. citizens were hospitalized following their encounters with his Federal agents.

When addressing Federal agents prior to a confrontation with peaceful protesters, Mr. Bovino stated that "if someone strays into a pepper ball, then that's on them."

Bovino has tear-gassed peaceful crowds, encouraged his agents to fire pepper balls at protesters, and threatened to go "even harder on the streets," when Federal judges dare to order him to follow the law. But Mr. Bovino is not alone in his cruelty. Many Trump officials have been posting and gloating about their clear violations of constitutional rights.

While President Trump has given them carte blanche to violate the law, there is a reality ahead. One day President Trump will not be in the White House. When he goes, those who ordered these unlawful activities finally may be held accountable and prosecuted. Section 242 of title 18 of the United States Code makes it a crime for a Federal law enforcement official acting under color of law to violate the constitutional rights of any person.

I have no expectation that President Trump's Justice Department will investigate these violations currently taking place in Chicago. But the statute of limitations from these provisions is 5 years. The next administration will be well within its rights to hold accountable anyone who violated an individual's constitutional rights or directed others to do so during this Trump administration.

While the Supreme Court's outrageous decision in *Trump v. The United States* may have personally immunized President Trump from prosecution, it provided no such protection for these agents.

The Trump administration officials responsible for the use of excessive force or unlawful detention may face criminal consequences for their role in the Midway Blitz. That is why, today, my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH and I have submitted a criminal referral to the Justice Department regarding the unlawful actions of senior Trump administration officials and Federal immigration agents in Operation Midway Blitz.

To take one example, a Border Patrol agent shot a Chicago woman multiple times. Body camera video reportedly shows the agent threatening the woman, saying "Do something," and then I will delete the next term he used, prior to shooting her.

Afterward, the agent bragged in text messages to other agents about shooting the woman, writing "5 shots, 7 holes." As ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have directed my staff to continue gathering

evidence of potential violations of section 242, and we will provide this evidence to the Justice Department in due course.

In addition, Illinois elected officials are hard at work documenting crimes committed by these Federal agents. The mayor of Evanston has opened an investigation after Federal agents pinned down a man and struck him in the head. The Village of Broadview is conducting criminal investigations related to ICE's use of tear gas and rubber bullets against first responders and peaceful protesters.

Tomorrow, the Illinois Accountability Commission will hold its first public hearing, which will examine the widespread use of chemical agents during Midway Blitz. There will come a time when the people responsible for these assaults, tear-gassing, and unjust detention during this unlawful immigration action will face real accountability.

These officials swore an oath when they began their service to preserve and protect the Constitution, but in their role as Federal law enforcement officials, there is ample evidence they violated the very rights they promised to defend.

Today, I am putting those participating in Operation Midway Blitz on notice: You can continue to terrorize people. You can ignore the rulings of our courts, our laws, and our Constitution. You can hide behind your masks. You can ignore due process requirements in the Constitution. The day will come when justice will be served. The day will come when you will be held accountable. The day will come when this pitiful display of meanness and intolerance will become one of the saddest chapters in our Nation's history, and you will be held accountable. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING SERGEANT EDGAR BRIAN TORRES TOVAR, SERGEANT WILLIAM NATHAN HOWARD, AND AYAD MANSOOR SAKAT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, this past weekend marked the 389th birthday of the National Guard. The Guard was on the front lines in our fight for freedom even before the birth of our Nation and played a critical role in securing our independence.

Today, the men and women who put on the uniform continue to live out that legacy by serving our communities, responding to disasters and emergencies, and protecting our Nation's defense in overseas combat, security, and reconstruction missions.

The members of the National Guard are hard-working folks who live and work in our communities and made a commitment to our country to be ready whenever and wherever duty calls.

As a proud veteran of the Iowa Army National Guard, I raised my right hand and also took the oath to serve, and that service was shaped by the folks in uniform who were standing shoulder to shoulder with me.

From those who served alongside of me to those who came before me and after me, we all promised to be "Always Ready, Always There." But instead of celebrating that legacy last Saturday, our Nation was rocked with the news that we had lost some of our own. And nowhere felt this tragic loss more than Iowa, as we learned two brave Iowan National Guardsmen gave their lives in service to our country.

While supporting counterterrorism operations in Syria, SGT Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and SGT William Nathan Howard, members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, came under fire and were killed by a lone ISIS gunman near Palmyra.

This senseless attack also took the life of a U.S. civilian interpreter Ayad Sakat and wounded three more members of the Iowa National Guard. Two of the injured servicemembers were evacuated for surgery. They were taken from Syria to Jordan and from Jordan on to Germany.

And in keeping with "Always Ready, Always There," it was actually an Iowa unit—the 185th Air Wing, the 185th Medical Group—that evacuated our Iowa Army National Guardsmen from Jordan to Germany. They surrounded the wounded and reassured them that they were all from Iowa, and they were there to care for their Iowa brothers.

But our Iowa National Guard family is hurting. As we mourn the loss of two of our own and pray for the continued recovery of our wounded, my heart goes out to their families, their loved ones, and, of course, the folks they served with. This loss is immeasurable. So please join me in honoring the lives of these heroes today.

Friends describe 25-year-old Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, from Des Moines, as selfless, goofy, and kindhearted, an amazing soldier and an even better friend. He was the first in his family to serve in the military. He joined the Iowa Army National Guard before his high school graduation ceremony in 2019, which speaks to his character in wanting to serve at such a young age.

Sergeant Torres-Tovar, your service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. My heart breaks for your friends, your family, and your community.

And as I was able to speak with his family, yesterday, they were torn apart and still in shock at the loss of their son. I was able to hug his mother and hold her hands and express my sorrow that she would not see her son again.

Mr. President, 29-year-old SGT William Nathaniel Howard, known as "Nate," from Marshalltown, IA, was a loving husband and described as an amazing man of faith. He joined the Iowa National Guard soon after graduating from Marshalltown High School and has been enlisted ever since. His stepfather Jeffrey Bunn, who serves as the Meskwaki Nation Police Department chief, shared that Nate wanted to be a soldier from a very young boy, all the way to his adulthood.

To his family, especially his wife Arianna and their son, my prayers are with you.

These men are two of our Nation's finest, a true testament to the selfless bravery it takes to put on the uniform and keep our homeland safe from the threat of radical Islamic terror. They are also a reminder that our freedom is not free, and every American owes an enormous debt of gratitude to our servicemembers who put their lives on the line.

I know firsthand the sacrifice of men and women who put themselves in harm's way. In 2003, I had the privilege of leading 150 Iowa Army National Guardsmen as a company commander in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Together, we drove supply convoys, conducting transportation and security missions in a combat zone. My soldiers, those incredible men and women, were critical to the mission, and our shared trust and commitment to each other was a very special bond.

To those who have served alongside Sergeants Torres-Tovar and Howard and to the 1,800 Iowans currently deployed throughout the Middle East, I feel your loss and your hurt. I have been in those boots. And rest assured, America has your back.

When I heard the tragic news, I rushed to comfort the families and traveled to visit the wounded and escort the fallen back to our homeland.

Sergeant Howard's brother, SSG James Roelsgard, who was serving in Kuwait at the time, is also a National Guardsman. He and I accompanied the bodies to Dover Air Force Base. Before we left Germany, we had a moment alone with the other escorts in the hulk of that C-17, which, ironically, was piloted and flown by the West Virginia Air Guard—West Virginia having lost a soldier here, locally, only a few weeks ago. But in that C-17, Sergeant Roelsgard knelt down beside his brother's case, draped in the flag, and he wept.

We all feel that loss.

I was able to accompany our fallen back to Dover Air Force Base, and there we were joined by our Iowa delegation and led by our Commander in Chief, and, all together, we comforted the families, and we mourned together.

Our Governor Kim Reynolds has ordered all flags in Iowa to fly at half-staff, out of respect and remembrance, until the bodies of our Iowa National Guardsmen have returned home and are laid to rest.

But that does not mark the end of their stories. We will continue to stand with their families and communities in mourning. We will make sure the world knows the legacy of Iowa's heroes and that every American life is precious.

Sergeant Torres-Tovar and Sergeant Howard, we remember you, we honor you, and we are proud of you. Your Nation is indebted to you.

The legacy of these heroes will never, ever be forgotten. Godspeed to our heroes, and God bless these great United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 858

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, well, I don't come to you very often, but I come to you, when I come, with important stuff. You know, I am not a politician. It is easy for you to see that. We have so much work that can be done and should be done, all the time here.

You know, I am going to speak to you today about folks that we owe everything to—not some, but everything, to. You know, I have said so many times as a Governor of West Virginia—I said over and over and over—that we owe every single thing to those who serve in our military, the active folks that are serving in our military. They have given us everything—everything.

You know, in my little State of West Virginia, we are really proud because we step up. We step up in every way.

I am here today, in a lot of ways, for Sarah and Andy too. Surely, God above, we have not forgotten Sarah and Andy.

We just lost Sarah Beckstrom, a great National Guardsman, absolutely in the prime of her life—20 years old—gunned down right on our streets here.

And Andy Wolfe continues to fight for his life, and he is improving. He has done wonderful. Andy, in many ways, is our miracle—our miracle for not only West Virginia but our miracle for this Nation, in lots of ways.

But I also come today on something that is enormously important. I come today with my bill for this Nation, for the most prestigious honor, the most prestigious medal in our military, and that is the Medal of Honor.

I want to talk to you about the namesake of this bill, Woody Williams. You know, Woody was a friend, a good friend. His name was Hershel "Woody" Williams. My bill is S. 858. It is going to be called the Hershel Woody Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act. And in a few minutes, I will ask for unanimous consent for this. I will ask that we quit playing these silly, silly, silly politics and step up to the plate and honor absolutely those that have given, in many instances, the ultimate sacrifice.

So with all that being said, as I move forward here, I would say to you this: My bill is a testament—a testament—that will go on the National Mall. It is fully funded. It is fully funded with private donations.

We absolutely know that the recipients of the Medal of Honor, absolutely, those folks—all the way back to the Civil War—those folks have been in every single conflict that this Nation has been in, and it is so enormously important it is off the charts.

This monument in the National Mall will be in proximity to the other memorials and monuments that remember wars that these individuals fought and died in, in an absolutely appropriate setting. This monument reflects the American people's collective appre-

ciation for the Medal of Honor recipients' bravery and stands as a lasting tribute to their legacy.

These individuals come from every corner of our Nation, from Hawaii to Maine, from every State. We have at least one individual from every State that has gone beyond the call of duty.

These people are like Army SGT Brian Buker from Maine. These people are like Navy ENS Charles Hamman from Maryland, Air Force MSgt John Chapman from Massachusetts, and Coast Guard Signalman First Class Douglas Munro from Washington State.

Mr. President, we are honored to have these great recipients, many of them with us today. But I do know that two are really right here with us today—U.S. MG Patrick Brady from South Dakota, who served in Vietnam and made several missions to evacuate wounded soldiers. He utilized 3 helicopters in a single day to Evacuate 51 seriously injured men.

It is unbelievable. It is totally unbelievable. The bravery. The sacrifice. Un-flat-believable.

We also have with us U.S. Army LTC William Swenson from Washington State and living up in California. He made multiple trips to the enemy's kill zone to evacuate wounded soldiers and recover four fallen U.S. servicemen.

I just don't know how in the world—you talk about this unbelievable bravery. You talk about their unbelievable sacrifice. They have given so much in every single way, and we should be so, so, so proud.

Like I said a few minutes ago, we are asking to do something on the National Mall. It has been vetted in every single possible way. The House has passed it unanimously. We passed it out of committee unanimously. Honestly, what is wrong with us in America? What could possibly be wrong with us in America to not step up and do something as small but as great as this for our greatest—greatest—medal recipients, the Medal of Honor. Absolutely.

I tell you this: I am grateful to be joined in this effort by 12 Senators that have cosponsored, including 5 of my colleagues from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Again I underline that this passed the House 414 to 0. It passed committee without objection. It is absolutely unbelievable. Unbelievable.

The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation has been a great champion and partner on this bill. The National Congress of American Indians has also supported this effort, as it has 42 recipients who are Native American.

It is unthinkable for me. I am new to the game. I have white hair, and I have done a lot of stuff. But Mr. President, absolutely, if we can't do this—we have a miserable, miserable approval rating as it is—14 percent. I don't see how in the world it is 14 percent, to tell you the truth. But if we have 14 percent as our approval rating of what we do, we should be disgraced off the chart.

But if we can't step up and support these heroes that have given the ultimate sacrifice beyond belief, these people that absolutely have a level of courage and bravery, have a level of service, have a level of sacrifice that is totally off the chart—totally off the chart. Do we not realize that every single solitary thing we have—everything that we have today—is due to folks like this?

In every way, I hope and pray that we will just stand up and say absolutely, unanimously, we concede.

As if in legislative session notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 858 and the Senate proceed to immediate consideration; further, that the Justice substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object, as we know, the Commemorative Works Act restricts new museums and memorials from being built on the National Mall without an act of Congress. It is one of the ways Congress likes to try to maintain and be mindful of the evolution of the National Mall and monuments and museums that meet our collective bipartisan standard for placement there.

Since I first arrived in the Senate, I have been working across the aisle to support the building of two important museums on the National Mall—one being the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino and the other being the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. Both of these efforts are longstanding bipartisan. In fact, Senator CRUZ and I, along with Senator MORENO and others, have a bipartisan bill that would adopt the necessary language for placement on the Mall. Meanwhile, Senators KLOBUCHAR and LUMMIS have a bipartisan bill to do the same for the women's museum.

So let me be clear. I wholeheartedly agree that the sacrifices made by Medal of Honor recipients should have a place of recognition for all Americans to see in our Nation's Capital. I also supported the Senator from West Virginia's bill when it came before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee just yesterday morning.

As ranking member of the Rules Committee, let me also offer to the Senator from West Virginia and his constituents some good news. I am happy to share that the committee is working as we speak to approve the installation of a statue in the Capitol for national Medal of Honor recipient Herschel "Woody" Williams, the individual whom the placement legislation is named after.