

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.

But as I shared in committee yesterday morning, I also believe that the story of the American Latino and the fight for equality by American women should also be enshrined on the National Mall. So we have an amendment that would add the text of those bills to S. 858 to also allow the Latino and women's museums to build on the National Mall.

My colleague from West Virginia was very eloquent, very passionate, and I share his conviction. The effort to approve the placement language, the location language for the Latino museum and the women's museum has been held up far too long. So I hope the Senator from West Virginia will join me in trying to do away with—what was it that he said?—the “silly, silly politics” because when you look at the history of Latinos in America, it includes 60 Medal of Honor recipients, beginning with Phil Bazaar and John Ortega for their service in the Civil War.

Latino contributions, including paying the ultimate sacrifice, is nothing new. And it includes, by the way, David M. Gonzales from my hometown of Pacoima for his bravery during World War II. The history of women in America includes the story of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, also a Medal of Honor recipient. All these stories deserve to be told in a location of prominence.

As I said yesterday morning when the Energy and Natural Resources Committee marked up and approved S. 858—I made remarks at the time clearly announcing my intention to offer this amendment when the Medal of Honor bill came up for consideration on the floor of the Senate, so here I am. It shouldn't be a surprise to anybody.

I would urge my colleagues to agree to include my amendment so that all three of these bills can finally move forward after years and years of hard work and bipartisan support.

Therefore, I would ask the Senator to modify his request so my amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the Justice substitute amendment, as amended, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my bill has gone through all the steps. The great Senator who is here speaking—his bill has not gone through the steps, and it being held up is surely not my fault, and of everything in the world, it is not these great recipients' fault.

I may have missed one person that could possibly be in our Gallery, and that is Marine Corps Capt. Raymond Murphy of Colorado.

But I want to just tell you this, sir: We have gone through every step the right way. We have gone through the

hearings, the markups, the unanimous passage by the ENR Committee. Therefore, I absolutely object in every single way. His bills have not gone through the committee. His bills have not had a hearing and been passed out of committee. This is absolutely skipping the proper steps. I may be new, but we have done it right.

And absolutely what we are doing is we are turning our backs on the greatest of the greatest of the greatest. This is the very thing—the very, very thing—I support the museums that he speaks of. We all would. But absolutely this act right here is the very root of what is wrong with us.

For God sakes-a-living, how do you absolutely look at those great people, how do you look at what they have given all of us and turn your back on them? I don't get it.

I absolutely object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there an objection to the original request?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object, I want to set the record straight. The museum efforts that I talked about have gone through all the proper steps. There have been committee hearings. They have been approved by committee. They have been approved in prior Congresses separately by both Chambers, so they are ready to move.

I am disappointed, frankly—not surprised—that the amendment is not accepted.

Therefore, I object and would look forward to working with my colleague from West Virginia and anybody else to advance all three of these proposals as expeditiously as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I am not going to volley back and forth. Use the Rules Committee, not this Congress.

Like I said before, I absolutely object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly in gratitude today.

Yesterday, Dover Air Force Base once again had the honor of receiving the remains of three Americans who died in service to our Nation: SGT Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, of Des Moines, and SGT William Nathaniel Howard, of Marshalltown—both Iowans, both servicing in the Iowa National Guard—and Ayad Mansoor Sakat, a resident of Michigan, originally an Iraqi, who served alongside American troops for 4 years during the war in Iraq and who has become a nationalized American citizen. All three were killed in a tragic incident in Syria. All three served bravely. And all

three were welcomed home with the dignity and respect that all who serve our Nation and fall in service to our Nation deserve.

DIGNIFIED TRANSFERS AT DOVER AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. President, I appreciate the forbearance of my colleague from Virginia. I just wanted to briefly thank my colleagues from Iowa.

I am the senior Senator from Delaware. For 15 years, I have invited home State Senators to join me in dignified transfers at Dover Air Force Base. And I understand it is logistically very demanding. But this year has been the first time. In the last year, the two Senators from Georgia joined for the dignified transfer of three Georgians—reservists who died in an incident at Tower 22 in Jordan. More recently, the two Senators from Illinois joined when four soldiers died in a tragic training accident in Lithuania.

Yesterday, the State of Iowa and its delegation really showed up: the Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds; of course, the Adjutant General, Stephen Osborn—MG Stephen Osborn of the Iowa National Guard—three Members of the House delegation: Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON, Congressman ZACH NUNN, Congressman RANDY FEENSTRA, and our two Senators—Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY and Senator JONI ERNST. Senator ERNST served as a colonel and deployed with the Iowa National Guard. Senator ERNST accompanied the remains of the two fallen members of the Iowa National Guard all the way from Ramstein, and it was our honor in Delaware to welcome them to our State.

It is my honor to rise briefly in thanks for the service of the men and women of AFMAO, which is the Armed Forces Mortuary Affairs unit, and Dover Air Force Base. This is a solemn duty and one that the men and women of Dover Air Force Base carry out with exceptional grace, care, and skill.

I want to close by thanking all of the volunteers from our community in Dover, DE, who dedicate their time to making sure that the families of the fallen are welcomed, are supported, are prayed over, and know that our Nation is grateful for their service and their sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, prior to my remarks, I would ask permission that, upon the conclusion of my remarks, Senator SHAHEEN be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes before the initiation of the scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NVIDIA

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to express deep concern and frustration over President Trump's decision to approve the sale of advanced Nvidia H200 AI chips to the People's Republic of China.

I appreciate the fact that my colleague Senator COONS is on the floor