

ambiguous—is the Senator from Oregon suggesting that we fund the entirety of the Department of Homeland Security—everything, everything, everything, the entirety of Homeland Security—with the exception of Customs—the people who inspect packages, the people who greet people at Portland International Airport—and Border Patrol and Homeland Investigations and Enforcement and Removal Operations? Is that correct?

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, my understanding is the second proposal funds everything but ICE and CBP is my understanding of the Murray bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Ohio agree to that modification?

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, I would agree to—we are almost there, but this is actually very important. We are making a lot of progress. And I think the plaque will be there for a long, long time.

So here is where we are at, just for a recap. We used to have 10 commandments in my company, and commandment 11 was: Thou shalt recap. So let's just recap where we are.

The Senator from Oregon, on behalf of the Democrat Party, is saying that he is willing to right now fund the entirety of the Department of Homeland Security—everything, every single Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, but—but—but is carving out the Customs and Border Patrol division and the entirety of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which includes these guys, the guys who chase down bad guys.

So I would ask that the Senator take a look at the Collins amendment, H.R. 7147, Calendar No. 311. Let's include the guys that chase the really bad guys. I will agree to the Senator's proposal if he will include the guys who chase the really bad guys—Homeland Security Investigations—and include the guys who greet people at your airport. What the Senator is suggesting is: Don't pay the guy who screens people who are leaving—you want to pay them—but don't pay the people who are taking care of the people coming back in. This is backwards land. Let's fund everybody at the airport. So why wouldn't we fund Customs? In fact, why wouldn't we fund Customs, the guys in the blue—if you have an issue with Border Patrol, the guys in the green jackets—is that what the Senator is saying? You would agree to fund everybody but Border Patrol and Enforcement and Removal Operations? Because I think we are super close. We can finish this dialogue and bring peace and tranquility to 260,000 families.

Is the Senator willing to do that? Is the Senator willing to modify one little tweak just in between—we are there—saying: Hey, let's include HSI, and let's include the guys patrolling our border; let's include the Customs guys? Or are you saying: No; if we pay people at the airport who receive visi-

tors from foreign countries and the people who guard our border, who are doing an amazing job, and people chasing bad guys—because you won't fund those three things—I am saying: Well, good. We will put Enforcement and Removal Operations on the side. By the way, a \$5 billion haircut to this budget, why don't we just do that?

Will the Senator from Oregon accept that? Let's get this done, make the American people very happy, and have glorious news for a lot of American families that are looking—think of the power the Senator has right now, the power you have right now to feed 254,000 American families by the words that are going to come out of your mouth.

I would ask all of us to have the humility to understand how powerful it is, the Senator's next words, because your next words will provide the paycheck for 254,000 American families. Please. I beg you. Please. Please do the compassionate thing, and then we will work on ERO later.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, is that a question?

Mr. MORENO. Yes.

Mr. MERKLEY. I would be happy to answer the question. Twice when I have answered questions, my colleague has reclaimed the floor in the middle of it. Does he intend to actually let me answer the question this time?

He is not responding—

Mr. MORENO. Of course.

Mr. MERKLEY.—which means he is reserving the right to object when I get part way into the explanation to his question.

But let's be clear. Because of the sequence of events in which I proposed two modifications and he rejected two modifications—he rejected and objected to paying through the end of September the TSA. And then I proposed that we fund everything except for CBP and for ICE because those are the two issues under negotiation with the President, and he has again objected. And he is proposing a 2-week extension and then people don't get paid again.

So we are going to bring this to a close because essentially my colleague has asked me to participate in this debate. And it is very clever, and I have willingly done so; but I would think 26 weeks is a whole lot better than 2 weeks.

And so since my colleague objected to paying TSA, objected to paying everyone in Homeland Security except for ICE and CBP—because that is under negotiation with the House and with the President—I have objected to his 2-week extension.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, let's just spend 60 more seconds here to recap what we have. So my colleague from Oregon representing the Democrats—who has been given a lot of time to kind to figure out how to come here—has said that what the position

of the Democratic Party today is—to day's position—different Saturday, by the way; different Sunday. By the way, different than Monday morning in which the minority leader went on Joe Scarborough and said that it was President Trump who objected to the idea to fund all of DHS except for Enforcement and Removal Operations. And then, of course, I think President Trump was maybe a genius there—because maybe by him saying no on Sunday, it made the Democrats say yes. And then he said yes on Monday evening. Then the Democrats had to go back to no. Kind of crazy.

What we are doing is not going to fund for the rest of the fiscal year people who keep our country safe because they want to defund the people whose job it is to keep our borders secure and to deport people who broke into our country illegally, including murderers, rapists, transnational organizations. They do not want to fund those Agencies. I just want that to settle in here and point out to the Presiding Officer that what I proposed today—and the Presiding Officer voted yes—54 Republicans—sorry—53 Republicans and 1 courageous Democrat—54 voted for that.

All it would take is 6 Democrats, and 254,000 people would get their paychecks. It is a sad day. I will mark the time, 5:45 p.m. It is a sad day for the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

SENATE BILLS

Mr. JUSTICE. Madam President, you know, I have got to say just this: We have Medal of Honor recipients with us right now, and I fast-forwarded because I had this beautiful speech to give and all that stuff, and there have been some things happened that we will get to in just a second.

But if U.S. Army MG Patrick Brady, just please stand up, just one second, sir. If you would, just stand for just a second, sir.

And U.S. Army LTC William Swenson, please stand, if you would.

And U.S. Navy Command Master Chief Britt Kelly Slabinski, if you would please stand.

And U.S. Army SGM Thomas Payne, if you would stand, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will ask the Senator to suspend momentarily.

Mr. JUSTICE. Madam President, if I violated the rule, it is because I am new to the game, and I don't know all the rules. But I want to thank them for their service in every way.

Medal of Honor winners—it is just unfathomable to think that those folks can grab a live handgrenade and try to throw it away from their comrades, to absolutely charge into enemy fire like you can't imagine.

And I think all the time, and I say to myself: You know, if I were in that situation, could I have that courage?

Could I have that grit? Could I have that love for this unbelievable country and my comrades that are right with me?

I don't know. It takes something that not many have, and we should honor them beyond belief.

The reason I asked these gentlemen to stand was simply just this: Today—today—something happened to me that, to be perfectly honest, I may have thought was getting to be semi-impossible. And that was just this: People from both sides of the aisle actually talked to one another. I had an amazing conversation with Ranking Member MARTIN HEINRICH. We sat, and we built some level of trust and communication.

Now, we are always going to fight with one another; we know that. But at the end of the day, these four—and for all the other 3,500 almost—today, we did something that, in all fairness, these four an hour and a half ago would have thought wasn't going to happen.

So I am going to fast-forward and read something that we all thought was semi-impossible.

But to others on the other side of the aisle—you know, Senator SHAHEEN; you know, Senator PADILLA; to absolutely our great chairman of ENR, you know, Senator LEE, who I am so thankful that we just talked—for God's sakes of living, we just talked, and lo and behold: wham, bam, bam. This monument that we have wanted to put on our National Mall that I am going to ask for your unanimous consent in just a second, absolutely we are there. No one would have believed it. No one really thought it.

These people have given so much, and we needed to stand up for them, and, lo and behold, today, maybe just a lot of lessons—lessons maybe that we all ought to listen to, and that is just this: If we talked and we trusted and we absolutely told the truth to one another, there may just be passage of lots and lots and lots of stuff that we should be doing here.

That is what we should be doing. I always call the voters Toby and Edith. But Toby and Edith need us. They need us in the worst way.

I would say, somehow, somehow, we have got to tone down and stop a little bit of the food fight.

So right now—now, get this; get this—this is what I am reading to you right now.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc; that the substitute-amendment at the desk to S. 858 be considered and agreed to; and that the bills, as amended, if amended, where applicable, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc: my bill, S. 858, the Hershel 'Woody' Williams National Medal of

Honor Monument Location Act, and S. 1142 the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, from Senator PADILLA.

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

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged of the relevant bills, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc, as follows:

HERSHEL 'WOODY' WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 858) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

The amendment (No. 4784), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hershel 'Woody' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION.

(a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the commemorative work authorized by section 1(a) of Public Law 117-80 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall be located within the Reserve (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act"), shall apply to the commemorative work.

The bill (S. 858), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SCARPER RIDGE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1142) to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1142

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act".

SEC. 2. SCARPER RIDGE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 92-589 (16 U.S.C. 460bb-1(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) Land generally depicted as 'Proposed Boundary Addition' on the map enti-

tled 'Golden Gate National Recreation Area Proposed Boundary Addition', numbered 641/193973, and dated July 2024."

Mr. JUSTICE. How about that, guys? Now we are rolling.

So at the end of the day, I could go through this wonderful speech that I had, but really and truly, we are there. God bless each and every one of those unbelievable heroes that have delivered for this great Nation.

And, Madam President, I thank you so much. It has been a big-time honor flying with you. So proud—can't be more proud than I am right now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I so appreciate our colleague from West Virginia and his commitment to our Nation's veterans and today, on Medal of Honor Day, that he was taking the time to recognize them. We are grateful for that and grateful for their service and their sacrifice, and know that we are able to continue the work we do for our great Nation because of the service that they have rendered to our Nation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Madam President, on Monday, I had the honor of joining President Trump in Memphis. This was his first visit to our great State after launching the Memphis Safe Task Force, last year.

And we were so thrilled with this. The task force has been working in Memphis for the last 6 months. And as we put that task force into place, what we saw is a city that has really transformed for the better.

Now, the reason the task force came to be is because Memphis, TN, in 2024 had the highest per capita crime rate of any city in this country. There were over 100 gangs that were there, vehicle thefts, carjackings, cargo theft. The list went on and on—aggravated assault, violent crime, murder.

What we saw was a rising crime rate, and regardless of how much energy local law enforcement put into this, apprehending criminals, there was a Soros-backed DA. It was a revolving door, and nothing seemed to get better.

Well, as Kash Patel and AG Bondi came before me before their Judiciary Committee hearings, I presented each of them with a crime stat sheet. These were the crime stats of Memphis.

I asked for their help. They committed for their help. At their hearings, they publicly committed for that help. And last summer, we started Operation Viper, and then, what we saw was a success. And because of that Operation Viper success with the FBI working with local police, then, last September, we started the Memphis Safe Task Force.

It is local, State, and Federal elected officials working with local, State, and Federal agencies, all working together: the mayor of Memphis; Chief Davis, the chief of police; our National Guard; Tennessee Highway Patrol; Tennessee Bureau of Investigations; 30 Federal