

State to honor our own fallen heroes. The USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, AL, hosts more than 400,000 visitors annually where they learn more about our military and those that served.

The city of Trussville, AL, is home to the Fallen Warrior Monument which honors Alabama servicemembers killed since 9/11, and Huntsville is home to one of the largest Memorial Day parades in the country.

These landmarks and events help tell stories of daughters, sons, husbands, wives, mothers, and fathers who answered the call to defend our country at home and abroad not knowing what their future might hold. You know, stories of mothers who hug their children and husbands who kiss their wives without knowing if it was their last time.

Next week, we recognize Memorial Day. Many will use this as an opportunity to grill out and go to the beach, but this isn't just another day off or another long weekend. It is a day to honor these fallen heroes and reflect on their sacrifice.

Today, I would like to recognize two fallen heroes from my State of Alabama: Alex Klinner of Auburn and Jeffrey Hall of Huntsville, along with their families.

HONORING ALEX KLINNER

Mr. President, earlier this year, we lost six servicemembers in a refueling mission, including three members of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron based at Sumpter Smith Joint National Guard Base in Birmingham, AL. Among those were this young man 33-year-old Auburn native Alex Klinner.

Alex joined the Air Force in 2017 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps from Auburn University after graduating from Auburn in 2016 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He deployed four different times in just 7 years, logging more than 563 hours in combat zones or support roles.

But as impressive as his pilot skills were, Alex's brother-in-law James said that he shone the brightest in his role as a husband to his wife Libby and a father to his three young children.

Alabama continues to mourn the loss of a hero gone way too soon. But Alex's legacy of faith, family, and freedom will continue to live on.

HONORING JEFFREY HALL

Mr. President, SSG Jeffrey Hall of Huntsville is another Alabama soldier whose life was cut short in service to our country at the young age of 28. Jeffrey's mom Annette said that he was destined to serve in the military. She recalls him as an energetic and headstrong child and a wonderful big brother to his sister Emily.

Jeffrey started showing an interest in being a soldier when he was only 3 years old. He was fascinated with army uniforms and always wanted to dress up as a soldier.

Annette and her husband Charles encouraged Jeffrey's dreams. She said

they must have bought out every army surplus store in North Alabama to give Jeffrey whatever military gear that he could find to use and to wear.

As soon as Jeffrey graduated from Huntsville Christian Academy in 2000, he set out to make these childhood dreams a true reality. After Jeffrey made a great soldier, he became a jumpmaster, a pathfinder, and a sharpshooter receiving numerous awards for his accomplishments, including Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

He had just re-signed for another 4 years in the military when his vehicle hit an IED in Afghanistan on June 1, 2009, the day before his second wedding anniversary with his wife Allison. Jeffrey experienced the joys of fatherhood for only 6 months to his daughter Audrey Faith before he deployed. She was only a year old when he was killed.

Annette decided to honor her son's sacrifice by starting an American Gold Star Mothers chapter. This chapter connects and supports more than 40 mothers across 18 counties in North Alabama and the Tennessee Valley. They also raise awareness for the sacrifices made by Gold Star families, including with a float in Huntsville's Memorial Day parade each year.

Annette repeatedly says it is a joy to speak of her son because she never wants to forget the life he lived or the sacrifices he made for his country. Her and Charles are heroes for raising their son to love this country and continuing to carry on the same sense of patriotism even after Jeffrey's untimely death.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. President, John 13:15 says:

Greater love has no one than this: [than] to lay down one's life for [his] friends.

Alex Klinner and Jeffrey Hall both know the danger and knew the danger involved with their mission, and they did it anyway. They left the safety of their homes so we could sleep safely in ours. They were fathers, sons, husbands, brothers, and friends; but to us, they are American heroes.

We owe them our full gratitude. We also owe our gratitude to the Klinner and the Hall families. The loss they have to live with every day is unthinkable. We continue to hold them in our prayers this Memorial Day and Memorial Day weekend.

As Memorial Day approaches, I hope we will take the time to honor Americans fallen along with all of our brave Gold Star families around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Alabama.

LULU'S LAW

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor Lulu Gribbin and to celebrate that Lulu's Law has now passed both the Senate and, as of yesterday, the House of Representatives.

I want to take you back a second.

So Lulu Gribbin has inspired the world. And for those of you who don't know her story, you have to go look it up. This child, 15 years old, on June 7, 2 years ago—almost 2 years ago—was doing what so many families do, particularly from Alabama. She was enjoying the gulf coast.

She was looking for a sand dollar with one of her friends when, unfortunately, she was attacked by a shark. In the moments that followed, she lost her left arm, and she lost her right leg. But she lost two-thirds of the blood from her body in the moments following. It is literally by God's grace that that precious child is still with us.

There were doctors and EMTs and nurses and Good Samaritans that came to her aid and her rescue immediately. As they worked diligently to save Lulu and to figure out what the pathway forward was, the world became inspired by her grit, by her grace, by her resilience, by her toughness, and by her attitude of positivity and saying: How can I take what has happened to me and make sure other people's lives are better?

Lulu is one of four. She is actually a twin. We loved hosting her entire family here yesterday. It was such a special moment. Lulu walked out onto the House floor and got to be there when they voted for this law in her name—this law that she said is going to protect people. It is going to make beachgoers safer, and it is going to make the country stronger and better.

So what Lulu's Law does is actually really simple. And when you think about how this came to be, we were talking about this—a group of friends of mine, a group of women—and we were talking about what happened to Lulu and the events that followed. And we said "Golly," and one woman said, if there had just been an alert that they knew a shark attack had occurred—because to know this law, you have to know Lulu's story.

Just 90 minutes before Lulu was attacked, a woman from Virginia, Elisabeth Foley, was attacked by a shark and lost her left hand. It was just a short 2-plus miles down the way, on the beach where Lulu was attacked, 90 minutes later. If she had had any idea about Elisabeth Foley's attack, she and her friends would never have been in the water.

So what this does is, it just authorizes local, State, and Tribal leaders to be able to utilize the wireless alert system if an attack occurs. It is simple. It is common sense.

When I called Lulu's parents, Joe and Ann Blair Gribbin, who have just—their resiliency, their love for their daughter, the foundation they have created are just nothing short of remarkable.

They said: We have been talking about this exact same thing.

When we brought the idea forward—I want to thank my colleague from Hawaii, Senator BRIAN SCHATZ, for his

leadership on this effort. He immediately joined alongside me and said: This is a small tweak that can make a big different.

So now, when these events occur off the coast, whether it be anywhere from the east coast to the west coast, to the Gulf of America or beyond, we will be authorized and able to use that wireless alert system, ping the phones in that area, let people know of a dangerous environment, and get more kids, more families, more people to safety.

This honors Lulu, and it honors the spirit in which she has dealt with the unthinkable, which is: How am I going to take what happened to me and positively impact others?

Yesterday, as we stood with Leader SCALISE—and he was so gracious to have her up and to be able to celebrate with her afterward—she said: We are making a difference. We are making a positive impact, and that is what this is all about.

Between that and her foundation that she started—it is Lulu; and you can go Lulu Strong Foundation—she helps kids and others that need help with prosthetics.

She has been remarkable. She was telling us yesterday that she used to play volleyball. Now she plays golf and much better than me—much better than me.

But go look her up. Go be inspired by her faith, by her grit, by her resiliency. She is a 17-year-old Alabamian that is truly changing the world. She took a circumstance that people thought was unthinkable and has made a positive impact that I know is going to change and save lives.

And it was an honor to carry this piece of legislation. I am grateful to Senator SCHATZ. I am grateful to Congressman PALMER, who carried it in the House. And we look forward to standing beside the President and signing this into law in Lulu's honor and to make sure that beach season is safer as a result.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 736.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathleen S. Lane, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 736, Kathleen S. Lane, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Thom Tillis, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Joni Ernst, Jon Husted, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Bill Cassidy, Rick Scott of Florida, Josh Hawley, Cynthia M. Lummis, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 743.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 743, Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida, Todd Young, David McCormick, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran, Jon Husted, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for a period of

morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICARE COVERAGE ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act, to help protect American seniors from high medical costs when they need skilled nursing care after hospitalization. I am pleased to be joined on this bill by my colleague from Vermont Senator WELCH.

Our bill corrects a problem arising from current Medicare policy, which requires beneficiaries to have an "inpatient" hospital stay of at least 3 days before Medicare will cover posthospitalization skilled nursing care. Patients who receive hospital care under "observation status" do not qualify for this benefit, even if their hospital stay lasts longer than 3 days.

Many patients on observation stays may not even realize that they have never been admitted as inpatients. They just know that they are in the hospital. If they are admitted later to a skilled nursing facility for follow-up care, they may be shocked to learn that they will be liable for out-of-pocket costs totaling thousands of dollars. Some Medicare beneficiaries may be foregoing skilled nursing or rehabilitation care altogether because they simply cannot afford to pay the out-of-pocket costs.

The financial consequences of the distinction between an observation stay and inpatient admittance can be severe for seniors.

One example is a Maine Medicare enrollee who was admitted in "observation status" at a hospital in Maine, but who needed and received acute care at that hospital. She was discharged to a skilled nursing care facility, which was also appropriate for her condition, but because of Medicare's 3-day rule and its treatment of "observation status," Medicare refused to pay for her skilled nursing care. She was stuck with a bill of more than \$56,000.00 for care she needed. That is unfair.

In another example, shared with me by Dr. Claudia Geyer, the chief medical officer at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, ME, a 90-year-old man with a fractured pelvis was denied Medicare coverage for skilled nursing care because he was admitted to the hospital under observation status. This gentleman had no way of paying for skilled nursing care on his own, so he had to remain in the hospital, costing Medicare more—and more important—not getting the physical therapy he needed to regain his strength and recover. As a result, he slowly weakened, suffered cognitive declines, and deteriorated to the point where he needed extensive care that may have been avoidable.