

So later this week I am going to help the Speaker with his ability to implement the installation of this plaque by coming to the floor and seeking unanimous consent to simply say: We won't list the individuals, but we will list their agencies. And I look forward to the opportunity to do that later this week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 574

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, before starting the series of speeches that are scheduled for this afternoon, I have a resolution observing the fifth anniversary of the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol at the desk, and I would like to call up for a passage by unanimous consent.

The resolution is straightforward. It simply says that the January 6 Capitol attack was an assault on democracy, that the U.S. Capitol Police and other law enforcement personnel who defended the Capitol were heroes, and that we, as a body, express our gratitude to all the dedicated personnel of the U.S. Capitol for their service that day. I believe, in a bipartisan spirit, it would be a great symbol of our congressional unity to pass this today on the fifth anniversary of January 6.

So as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 574; that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

You know, January 6 was my first day on the job here in the U.S. Senate. Come to think of it, that was the first day of the year and the start of a huge disaster the next 4 years. I sat right over there. Again, it was my first time on the Senate floor.

One of the first things I heard from my Democratic colleagues, after we returned to the floor that same night, after being taken and hidden out for a few hours, was that this was the worst disaster and was even worse than Pearl Harbor. By the way, that was a real attack that killed 2,403 Americans.

And I thought at that time: Are you kidding me? What are we talking about here?

Then almost immediately afterwards, those same Democrats that said this about Pearl Harbor, they came after all of us Republicans and said this January 6 attack was racist. And, you know, I didn't understand that—being the first day here, I went. Wait a minute. I mean, I thought we are all in this together. They know dang well this wasn't a racist attack, but it was just something that they wanted to use, but they never miss an opportunity to paint somebody a racist, you know, when it comes to the Democrats.

So January 6 had nothing to do with racism. Let's be clear what happened that day. Democrats and the Deep State hate Donald Trump so much that they helped orchestrate a coup against our government. It has been looked at, vilified; and the information that we found today is just amazing. And it first started with the tampering of the 2020 Presidential election results to oust President Trump and to install a different type of government. As a result, great American patriots gathered in Washington to peacefully—peacefully—protest the illegal tampering of the election of 2020.

When the leader of the Democratic Party at that time, NANCY PELOSI, and the Deep State learned of Trump supporters coming to Washington, DC—which, by the way, was hundreds of thousands of people—they started and got an idea. Now, again, this has all been proven. They decided to infiltrate the crowd with antifa and intelligence community members who would stir up trouble. The FBI has confirmed that there were 274 FBI agents in plain clothes in the Capitol here that day.

Then they set up Capitol Police by failing and refusing President Trump's offer to bring in National Guard as backup. They turned it down.

I interact with Capitol Hill police here every day. They are brave men and women who work tirelessly to help keep us all safe. But they were set up to fail by the Democrats that day. And then, of course, Democrats placed all the blame on President Trump and the Republicans for everything that happened that day and afterwards. They had the majority.

NANCY PELOSI spearheaded the true insurrection that day. This has all been proven true, and she even admitted responsibility for the massive security failures of that day. But the Democrats' plan to destroy President Trump and his supporters, it didn't end on that January 6, 2021. For the next 4 years—next 4 years—Joe Biden and the Democrats did everything they could do—everything—to arrest, harass, bankrupt, deplatform, and kill President Trump—not to mention the hundreds of innocent patriotic Americans who sat behind bars for the past 5 years over this made up witch hunt. That is one of the most embarrassing things I have seen since I have been here.

Thankfully, most of them now have been released. You know, conveniently, the Biden DOJ neglected to investigate members of the intelligence community for their treasonous involvement in the events of January 6. That was very convenient. As a matter of fact, they never brought the guy in who was in charge of Capitol Hill police for an interview. They never wanted to talk to him. He was in charge of the Capitol Hill police—because he knew the truth.

Still today, Democrats are trying to rewrite the true events of that history. They keep mentioning all of these Capitol Police who supposedly died on January 6. Now, don't get me wrong. We

have brave people that work in this building. But this was made up, and it continued to be made up. The only person who died on January 6 was Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed Air Force veteran who was shot that day in this building.

Recently, Senate Democrats attempted—think about this—attempted to strip Ashli Babbitt of her military funeral honors. Now, why would they do that? Ashli Babbitt was wrongfully killed on January 6, 2021. The Federal Government admitted it, and they paid money to her family as part of a legal settlement. Interesting. But Democrats, they don't care about the truth.

Today is a reminder that radical Democrats and the Deep State, they don't like our country the way we run it too much, and they will do whatever it takes to try to make the Republican Party and President Trump look bad. Unfortunately, for them, the American people aren't buying it. Mr. President, 77 million people came to the rescue of our country a year ago in November—77 million people. And that is why President Trump is back in the White House, and thank God he is.

So, no, we don't need a resolution condemning the attack on the Capitol on January 6. In fact, the only thing we should be doing is condemning NANCY PELOSI's role in setting up the government orchestration and orchestrated the hoax of January 6.

So before I object, I want to turn and yield the floor to my colleague from West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I reserve my right to object.

I would like to start by just saying a few comments, and that is just this: I think about my good friend, my colleague from the great State of Alabama. He is a patriot. He is a good man. He is a man full of common sense. He is a man that absolutely cannot stand wasting time. He can't stand worthless grandstanding, and neither can I. I didn't come here for that. He will be a great, great Governor.

You know, I had 8 years of serving the great people of West Virginia. It is the honor of my life. We approach things the same way in a lot, a lot of ways. You know, we are both coaches. We tease each other that we are the best two coaches in the U.S. Senate. We are the only two coaches in the U.S. Senate, but we still think we are the best.

You know, we concentrate on things like moving the ball forward, don't we? We absolutely listen to our team. We listen to voters. We listen to—who I always call the voters—Toby and Edith. This is a gigantic distraction again by the Democrats just because they hate our great President beyond all good sense. When are they ever going to get over hating Donald Trump?

Now, you know me well enough to know that I speak the truth. And I know the Trump family, and I know

President Trump really well. I have seen Eric Trump underneath my vehicle changing the tire on my vehicle so far back in the woods that you can't imagine how far away we were. They are good people, and they are a good family, and God knows what he has achieved is off the charts. It is so good; it is unbelievable.

Today what we see is, again, the Democrats grasping at straws, doing stuff absolutely to try to make a scene. That is what this is all about. For God's sake, President Trump was elected unbelievably—unbelievably. Why in the world are we not moving on? Why in the world do we continue to waste more and more and more time? Is it any wonder why we earn the badge of courage—14 percent approval rating—and we still won't do anything about it.

We need to do things. We need to really get stuff done here. We need to help our farmers, and I am sure my colleague from Alabama would help a lot of great farmers in the State of Alabama soon. We need to help our families. We need to make American lives better and better. And in my opinion, America needs to lead the world, and that is what we are doing today. Instead of the world absolutely leading us, we are doing what the world wants us to do. We are stepping up. We are leading the world.

Again, I want to thank Senator TUBERVILLE in every way. And to my Democratic colleagues that I respect more than you know in all ways—and I think that is how we all should be—please, let's stop wasting time; and please, let's stop this unnecessary and totally useless grandstanding politics. We have got to stop this. This is a total waste of time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. For those reasons, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from California.

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today joined by Democratic Leader SCHUMER and so many of our colleagues in raising our voices on this fifth anniversary of a dark day in American history. Yes, it has been 5 years, and some on the other side of the aisle may ask, Why are we still talking about this? I think we just witnessed why it is important to keep talking about this—because the lies continue, the conspiracy theories continue, and the truth must be told. We will not let history be rewritten.

The truth is that 5 years ago today, insurrectionists stormed the Capitol in an unprecedented attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power. The truth is police were beaten as a violent crowd surged forward. The truth is there were Members of Congress literally running for their lives, rushed out of this very Chamber and told to hide and barricade themselves.

It was an attack instigated and fueled by lies, a coordinated campaign by President Trump to overturn the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election.

Now, even on that day, as rioters threatened to hang Vice President Pence, Trump tweeted a message to them that the election had been stolen; that they were “patriots”—his words, not mine—that he “loved them” as the violence erupted.

Special Counsel Jack Smith recently testified that President Trump was the “most culpable and most responsible person” in this January 6 conspiracy. He continued, “These crimes were committed for his benefit. The attack that happened at the Capitol does not happen without him.”

Now, despite the President's attempts to rewrite history, today, for the sake of our democracy and for the sake of future generations, we remember and highlight the truth. See, we all vividly remember where we were 5 years ago. Unlike most of my colleagues who will speak out, I was not in this Chamber 5 years ago. I was still serving as California Secretary of State at the time, where I had spent years working to keep our elections, not just accessible for all eligible voters, but safe and secure, which they have always been despite the claims of the President.

On November 3, 2020, it was my privilege to serve as the chief elections officer in the Nation's most populous and diverse State. I assure you that, even under the best of circumstances, election administrations are complex operations, but in 2020, our election workers faced the additional and unprecedented challenge of a global health crisis. Those election workers stepped up. They rose to the occasion. As a result, California election officials and volunteers administered an extremely accessible, secure, and safe election that drew an historic turnout, and we saw similar electoral performances across the country. By every objective measure, the 2020 election was a success.

But, furious at his loss, none of that mattered to President Trump. He didn't just refuse to concede the election; he filed and lost more than 60 frivolous lawsuits that challenged the election. He personally called State elections officials, including, as I know the Presiding Officer will remember, the Georgia secretary of state, asking him to find more votes. He also called State legislature leaders in Michigan, in Arizona, and in Pennsylvania, trying to pressure them to change the official vote results; and he lied to the American people, denying his loss. He lied to them again just this morning, to a roomful of House Republicans, calling the 2020 Presidential election rigged.

Online and across the country, President Trump's Big Lie caught fire, and, clearly, it is still burning. Sadly, many Republicans participated in fanning the flames by spreading false claims of voter fraud for political gain. Others

stood by silently as President Trump radicalized his supporters with these lies. They chose loyalty to Trump over the truth, and our Nation paid the price.

On January 6, we saw, we witnessed, we lived through what was once unthinkable—an unprecedented attack on this Capitol by violent extremists who were incited by the President. He told a crowd that was gathered outside the White House to “fight like hell” or “you're not going to have a country anymore.” Then he pointed them directly at the Capitol.

Armed rioters brutally beat police officers and stormed this building. For the first time in our Nation's history, the Confederate flag flew inside the Halls of this Capitol. Members of militarized hate groups searched the hallways with the intent to kill Democratic- and Republican-elected leaders. They found their way to the House floor and to this very Chamber to try and stop the certification of the Presidential election.

The deadly January 6 attack will forever remain an ugly stain on American history. But, yes, thanks to the bravery of the U.S. Capitol Police and other law enforcement officers who risked their lives, including five officers who tragically lost their lives, the assault on our democracy failed. Still, Speaker JOHNSON refuses to install a plaque—required by law—honoring the police officers who defended the Capitol that day. Even this morning, the President is shamefully blaming officers for, as he said, deliberately escalating the violence that day. But thanks to the strength of the American people and our institutions, our democracy has survived. It continues to be tested, but it has survived.

In the aftermath, Congress enacted meaningful changes through the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act.

Despite this action, we are still not out of the woods. Clearly, President Trump's attacks on the right to vote and the very foundation of our democracy have continued. In one of his first acts in his second term, Trump issued a blanket pardon of more than 1,500 of the defendants charged with attacking the Capitol, including more than 1,200 who were convicted—1,200 convicted. Upon hearing the news of the pardon, one of the Capitol Police officers injured that day who testified against the rioters felt Trump was “trying to erase what [he] did.” Not satisfied with that, the January 6 convicts are now seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in payouts of taxpayer money.

Mr. President, I would like to share with all of you that Senator WHITEHOUSE and I are introducing new legislation today to bar these payouts.

But this is about more than just payouts and pardons. Trump doesn't believe he has done anything wrong. The President continues to work to undermine the midterm elections in a desperate attempt to hold onto power.