

are doing the most patriotic thing they can do right now. Standing up and calling out authoritarianism when we see it is the most patriotic thing that we can do as Americans.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in calling a spade a spade when you see it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT 5342

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this is a solemn occasion for me and for many people I know, and I rise this evening to recognize and honor the 67 lives we lost, 1 year ago tomorrow, on January 29, 2025.

On that night, Flight 5342 took off from Wichita, KS, and flew toward our Nation's Capital with 64 passengers on board. In Washington, DC, a Black Hawk helicopter with three Army soldiers would soon be in the air as well. Flight 5342 was just minutes away from a safe landing at Reagan National Airport when the plane and the Army helicopter collided over the Potomac River.

Shortly after 9 p.m., I received a call with the news that a flight from home—from Kansas—was involved in an accident in our Nation's Capital. I made my way to Reagan National Airport that night. The banks of the Potomac River were illuminated with lights from emergency responders who were searching the icy waters of a crash site.

At the airport, I was joined by local leaders and the newly sworn-in Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy. Our conversation that night was one of many that would then span the course of the following year, trying to understand how an accident like this could occur and how to prevent it from ever happening again.

At the airport, we learned the tragic news that there were no survivors. Of those who perished, seven were Kansans.

Kiah Duggins, a civil rights attorney and a Wichita native, was set to begin teaching at Howard University School of Law.

Lindsey Fields, a professor at Butler Community College and the president-elect of the National Association of Biology Teachers, was traveling to our Nation's Capital to advocate for the issues that mattered to her.

Bob and Lori Schrock, a prominent and very well-liked couple of farmers from Kiowa, KS, were on their way to visit their daughter in college in Pennsylvania.

Grace Maxwell, an engineering student from Wichita, was returning to college after attending her grandfather's funeral at home in Kansas.

Dustin Miller, an IT professional who grew up in El Dorado and was a lifelong Chiefs fan, told his mom he was going to try to make it back in time to watch his team play in the Super Bowl.

PJ Diaz of Wichita was described by his loved ones as a world traveler who

had been to 49 States. He especially loved cruises and had an extra-long cruise planned for later that year.

Sadly, 28 members of the U.S. Figure Skating community also lost their lives—young athletes traveling back from the National Development Camp in Wichita, with their coaches and family members.

Maxim Naumov, a 24-year-old U.S. figure skater, lost both of his parents in the accident. In the wake of this tragedy, Maxim used his love of skating to overcome this immense loss and now heads to the 2026 Olympic Games, just weeks away, to achieve his lifelong dream that he shared with his parents. We will all be cheering him on.

A year later, the memory of this night—the deadliest aviation incident that America had witnessed in nearly 25 years—is as painful as it was when we first heard the news. The victims were husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends and coworkers.

As we mourn the victims, we also remember the heroism, solidarity, and love displayed that night. Hundreds of first responders worked tirelessly through the night and into the coming days. Strangers offered comfort, and people checked in on their neighbors.

Since January 29, the families of the victims have tried to find meaning and purpose after the death of their loved ones and have worked to eliminate the likelihood of an accident like this ever happening again.

A family, in particular, that I would like to mention, Tim and Sheri Lilley, lost their son Sam. He was the copilot for Flight 5342, the plane.

Following the tragic accident, the Lilley family has used its voice to become an advocate for safer skies, in honor of their son Sam.

I am grateful for the advocacy of the families who are gathered here tonight in the Nation's Capital to remember their family members, to mourn the losses, to comfort each other. I am grateful for the families of the victims over the last year as they work to advocate for changes at the FAA—Federal Aviation Administration—and congressional legislation like the ROTOR Act.

Thanks to their support, the Senate advanced this critical legislation last year. This was an important step, but our progress has been stalled in the House.

The National Transportation Safety Board's hearing just yesterday further confirmed that this legislation could have made a difference on January 29 a year ago. We cannot afford to waste any more time. I urgently insist the House of Representatives quickly pass this legislation or amend it and pass it so we can find consensus.

I want to commend NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy and her team on their thorough investigation of the crash. Their report will guide Congress in the coming weeks in our efforts to ensure safety in the skies.

In addition to passing and implementing the ROTOR Act, Congress will soon hold a hearing—after the NTSB releases its final report in about 2 weeks—to review the findings and recommendations. We need to determine what, if any, congressional action is necessary to implement these recommendations and make certain the FAA and Army are making the recommended changes, provide funding for further modernization of our aviation system, advance new technologies at the FAA, and train and support air traffic controllers. We cannot—we should not—miss the moment to act and ensure lasting change.

I cannot imagine the pain each of the families of the victims has experienced every day since January 29. This week, their loss must be felt especially hard as they face the anniversary of the crash.

Tonight, I want to remember those who perished—67 lives that ended way too soon. We resolve to honor their legacy, work to make our skies safer, and remember those we loved who lost their lives.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the victims of Flight 5342 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF FLIGHT 5342

Isabel Cristina Martinez Aldana, Franco Aparicio, Luciano Aparicio, Sarah Lee Best, Brielle Beyer, Justyna Beyer, Jonathan Boyd, Jonathan Campos, James Claggett, Lars Raeder Clausen, Christopher Collins, Casey Crafton, Pete Diaz, Kiah Duggins, Andrew Eaves, Danasia Elder, Brian Ellis, Ian Epstein, Lindsey Fields, Jinna Han, Jin Hee Han, Cory Haynos, Roger Haynos, Stephanie Haynos, Alex Huffman, Asra Hussain, Steven Johnson, Julia Kay, Sean Kay, Elizabeth Anne Keys, Alexandr Kirsanov, Christine Lane, Spencer Lane, Samuel Lilley, Alydia Livingston, Donna Livingston, Everly Livingston, Peter Livingston, Rebecca Lobach, Pergentino Malabed, Grace Maxwell, Charles McDaniel, Dustin Miller, Vadim Naumov, Melissa Nicandri, Ryan O'Hara, Anthony Parente, Vikesh Patel, Jesse Pitcher, Robert Prewitt, Bob Schrock, Lori Schrock, Wendy Jo Shaffer, Evgenia Shishkova, Michael Stovall, Olesya Taylor, Olivia Eve Ter, Inna Volyanskaya, Angela Yang, Lilly Li, Edward Zhou, Kaiyan Mao, Yu Zhou.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

TRIBUTE TO RANA ALTENBURG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if you were to follow I-94W for just an hour and a half north of the city of Chicago, you would find yourself rolling into the city of Milwaukee. Every day, tens of thousands of drivers make this commute, and every day, they are greeted

by two colors: blue and gold—more specifically “denim” and “wheat,” the two colors used to paint every highway circling Milwaukee. Why these colors? Well, for one, because they are the colors of Milwaukee’s own Marquette University. And for two, because of the hard work of a woman named Rana Altenburg.

With more than 30 years serving as Marquette University associate vice president for public affairs, Rana Altenburg’s legacy reaches far beyond choosing those two colors while she chaired the Marquette Interchange Color Committee. Her impact on the city of Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin, and Washington, DC, was profound. While Rana retired at the end of 2025, her legacy will be felt for years to come.

In fact, it is difficult to walk more than a few blocks in Milwaukee, or even Wisconsin, without encountering Rana’s handiwork. Crossing Wisconsin Avenue on Marquette’s campus? Rana worked alongside city officials to install the medians bisecting the busy street. Enjoying a “blue moon” popsicle from Pete’s Pops on a summer day in Milwaukee? The local business was the inaugural winner of Rev-Up MKE, a small business pitch competition put on by the nonprofit that Rana helped found in 2015. Going to a dental check up in Eau Claire, WI? Your teeth are probably being cleaned by someone from Marquette’s esteemed dental school, which Rana championed.

A few blocks down from Marquette’s campus sits Milwaukee’s “Near West Side,” a group of seven neighborhoods that, in the 2010s, were in dire need of reinvestment. Rana brought together five anchor institutions in Milwaukee—Marquette, Advocate Aurora Health, Harley-Davidson, Molson Coors, and Potawatomi Ventures—to establish a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the city’s Near West Side as a business and residential corridor. Ten years later, Near West Side Partners—NWSP—with Rana at the helm as the nonprofit’s board president, is thriving. Thanks to the hard work of NWSP, more than 50 new small businesses have opened in the area, crime has decreased by double-digits, home ownership rates are up, and the opening of the mixed-use space, Concordia 27, has given Milwaukeeans a new community hub.

Beyond Wisconsin, Rana is one of the strongest advocates for Marquette’s Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington, DC. The program, which brings students out to the Nation’s Capital to study American political systems and to intern across the city, has expanded its reach during Rana’s tenure. She leveraged the university’s tightly knit alumni network to place students at internships ranging from congressional offices to healthcare advocacy. As a direct result of Rana’s support for the program, Marquette alumni populate Capitol Hill in extraordinary numbers.

Rana is a familiar face to folks on Capitol Hill, even to those who didn’t attend the Les Aspin Center. She worked alongside congressional staff to bring millions in funding to Marquette to support the university’s dental school, the only one in the State of Wisconsin; to bolster Marquette’s nursing program by securing funding for the school’s clinical simulation lab; and to boost the redevelopment of Milwaukee’s Near West Side.

But she lent her talents to many other worthy causes, including to the James Wright Foley Foundation, a nonprofit named for the Marquette alumnus and journalist who was tragically captured and killed by ISIS while reporting in Syria. Through her efforts and the work of my colleague Senator SHAHEEN, the foundation will receive a \$350,000 earmark this year to support their work promoting journalists’ safety abroad and to preserve the James Wright Foley Archives at Marquette.

In recognition of her outstanding work, the Milwaukee Business Journal has honored Rana, first as a “Forty Under 40” awardee and subsequently, as a “Woman of Influence”. But what the well-deserved profiles in the Milwaukee Business Journal often forget to mention are the hours she invested in mentoring Marquette students. Affectionately referring to them as her “superstar interns,” Rana mentored hundreds of students through the Marquette Office of Public Affairs, carving out time in her intense schedule to foster her interns’ interest in public policy. She welcomed her students into the legislative process and even brought them along to meetings and events, allowing her interns to take an active role in advancing the university’s priorities. Years later, those same “superstar interns” are now serving as legislative aides, communications professionals, and legal counsel across Capitol Hill, including on my own staff and on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

But Rana takes no job more seriously than her role as a Marquette basketball superfan. A long-time season ticket holder, Rana is a fixture at the Fiserv Forum in the sea of university students. If you keep your eye out during the Big East tournament, it is not uncommon to spot Rana, decked out in blue and gold, in the crowd during an away game. And as perhaps the greatest contribution a superfan can make, Rana worked tirelessly to ensure the Marquette Golden Eagles could play at the new Fiserv Forum, keeping Marquette in the very small club of college teams that play in an NBA arena.

In everything she did, Rana imbued one of Marquette’s guiding principles, *cura personalis*, which translates to “care for the whole person.” Because of her guidance, Milwaukee has grown thoughtfully and deliberately, Capitol Hill has been made more compassionate and decent, and even that dentist in Eau Claire provides more wholesome care.

While Rana dedicated the last 30 years to improving both Milwaukee and Wisconsin, she will always be a daughter of Northbrook, IL. My staff, especially the Marquette graduates she mentored; my son, a Marquette alumnus; and I congratulate Rana on a long and storied career. We wish Rana, her husband Jeff, her two daughters Hannah and Sophia, her son-in-law Jack, and her new granddaughter Nora, all the best in the years to come.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-03, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.16 billion.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 26-03, concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.16 billion.

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MICHAEL F. MILLER,
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Enclosures.