

when they go to school. It happens here in America because we choose to let it happen.

We are not unlucky. This is purposeful. This is a choice made by the U.S. Senate to sit on our hands and do nothing while kids die.

It doesn't even involve any political risk. The changes we are talking about in order to make our schools safe places, they are supported by the vast majority of Americans, Republicans and Democrats. And yet the gun lobby and the gun industry is more important to half of the Members of the Senate than is the safety of our kids, and that is infuriating.

Make no mistake about it, there is a silent message of endorsement sent to would-be killers, sent to individuals whose brains are spiraling out of control when the highest levels of the U.S. Government does nothing, shooting after shooting. Somewhere in these broken brains, they have convinced themselves that they can right perceived wrongs by firing a gun into a crowd. And when Congress—when the highest, most important, most powerful leaders in the land do nothing, shooting after shooting, you can understand why those broken brains imply that as endorsement. We have become part of the problem. Our silence has become complicity.

And I am here to tell you that there is a very low likelihood that your child will die in a school shooting. It is still a very, very infrequent occurrence in this country, given the number of kids who walk into a school every day. But the very fact that every child fears for their life, the very fact that every parent thinks about this when they send their kid to school, that is both a moral and practical stain on this country because kids' brains can't learn when they fear for their lives. No parent should have to sit down and talk to their kid about why, even though you see this happen in Newtown and you see this happen in Parkland and you see this happen in Michigan and you see this happen in California, it won't happen to you, dear. Because when these kids see it on TV every single day, you can't blame them for coming to the conclusion that it may happen to them.

I remember watching on TV once a young woman in the aftermath of a school shooting. There are so many of them now that I can't even remember which one this was. And she said to the TV reporter who was interviewing her: I just assumed that it would happen at my school eventually.

What a sad state of affairs that this is what it has come to.

I am beyond my tipping point, but I needed to come to the floor today because having sat in that chair listening to my colleagues tell me how much they care about human life—well, you have an opportunity to do something about it. You have an opportunity to save lives right now. Kids that are walking into schools tomorrow need

you—need you—to step up and pass laws that are going to make sure that only responsible people own guns. And the guns that are used in these school shootings—the semiautomatic rifles, the AR-15 variants—they stay in the hands of law enforcement.

And even if you don't believe that those laws will have the practical consequence of stopping every school shooting, please acknowledge that there is a moral impact of the actions that we take. By signaling to everyone in this country—but in particular these individuals who are contemplating these evil actions—that we don't accept this level of carnage, there will be an impact. And I tell you that because I know history.

There are two massive declines in the murder rate in this country in the last 100 years. It is not coincidental to the 10-year period after the two most significant antigun violence measures passed by Congress.

The first big decline is in the late 1930s and 1940s, right after Congress passes its first bill regulating the possession of firearms in this country. The second big decline is in the 1990s and early 2000s right after Congress passes the universal background checks law and the ban on assault-style weapons.

That is not coincidental. It is because those laws had a practical effect on crime but also a moral effect as well. The proof is right there in front of you of what can happen, of how many lives can be saved if we stand up and act.

So, please, I beg my colleagues, if you are going to come down here and talk about the sanctity of life, explain to the American people why the gun lobby matters more than the safety of our children who are walking into school every day fearing for their life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2021, AS "NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY"

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 437.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 437) expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2021,

as "National First-Generation College Celebration Day".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 437) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 3, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 462, S. Res. 463, and S. Res. 464.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 462, S. Res. 463, and S. Res. 464) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN "ROWDY" MURPHY

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge and honor MAJ Kevin "Rowdy" Murphy for his dedicated service in the U.S. Air Force and in the Senate as part of the Legislative Defense Fellowship. Major Murphy joined my office in January of this year, where he has expertly served as a trusted adviser and critical member of my team. He is one of the Air Force's finest fighter pilots, having capably flown the F-15E Strike Eagle for the past decade and graduated from the distinguished Air Force Weapons School.

Rowdy served with distinction while assigned to my office. He was instrumental in bringing a partner fighter training mission to Ft. Smith, AR, he helped establish a Defense Department aviation safety council, and he designed legislative defenses against the threat of fiber optic cables from China.

While Major Murphy excelled at his legislative duties, he truly distinguished himself during the evacuation

of Kabul. As Afghanistan collapsed, thousands of Americans and Afghan partners reached out to my office for assistance. Overwhelmed by a flood of stranded civilians a world away, Rowdy snapped into action. He quickly organized a process for triaging and assisting American citizens, green card holders, and Afghans who had fought alongside American forces. He created “baseball cards” for isolated Americans in Kabul, which were passed along to the 10th Mountain Division and special forces units. He helped technologically illiterate evacuees navigate the State Department’s onerous online registration for evacuation, and in dozens of cases, he alerted the State Department to the presence of American citizens stuck inside a collapsing country. In conjunction with my staff in Arkansas, DC, and even one inside Kabul’s airport perimeter, Rowdy worked a long stream of 20-hour days to exfiltrate evacuees.

It is difficult to quantify the number of lives that Major Murphy saved. He provided direct planning support and guidance to 76 evacuees, drawing on his expertise as a fighter pilot to design and execute dozens of successful evacuation strategies. The evacuees ranged from a 1-month-old infant to an 83-year-old cancer patient, all of whom are now safely free of the Taliban’s grasp. During the course of these missions, he coordinated directly with Joint Special Operations Task Force and NATO tier-1 units. Rowdy indirectly helped countless others. He received, logged, and relayed innumerable evacuation requests over those 2 weeks and directly passed along the State Department’s terror warning prior to the suicide bomb attack on the airport’s Abbey Gate. At least 70 people received this notification from Rowdy and took shelter, a testament to his organization and persistence.

Those are the statistics. The personal stories are far more profound. There was Mikey, a brave translator who served alongside U.S. troops. When Mikey’s wife and son were shot by the Taliban, Rowdy acted as a personal 911 dispatcher, staying on the line with Mikey’s family of four for over 5 days and exhausting countless options to safely deliver them from the throngs outside the airport gates. After nearly a week of constant communication, stopping only to sleep for a few hours a night, Rowdy’s direct coordination with U.S. military personnel succeeded in delivering Mikey’s family to safety and medical care. When Mikey finally made it through the airport gates, he was crestfallen to learn that Rowdy was in DC, and not there to greet him inside the airport.

My staff described those 2 weeks in August as relentless and exhausting. When Rowdy would take 3 to 4 hours a night to sleep, he would wake to dozens of new messages from people stranded in Kabul, pleading for help. One member of my DC staff, a marine with combat experience in Afghanistan’s

Helmand province, said the personal toll from 2 weeks of helping desperate people pleading for rescue was more profound and exacting than his wartime service. Yet throughout it all, Rowdy stayed calm, cool, and professional. He kept a relentless focus on his mission. When the final American troops left Afghanistan, Rowdy was instructed to put his phone down for a few days to recover. As a testament to his resilience, he ignored those instructions and kept working on alternate evacuation options for those left behind.

Major Murphy was recently invited to the wedding of one of his evacuees, as a token of deep gratitude and affection for the Air Force major who helped deliver them to safety. His ingenuity, resourcefulness, stamina, and composure under pressure reflect the best that America has to offer.

I want to sincerely thank Rowdy and his wife, Laurel, for a year of exemplary service in my office. But I am especially grateful to him for those 2 weeks in August, when he rose to the challenge that history had thrust upon him. It has been a privilege to watch him work, and he will always have an open door here in my office. It is my sincere hope that the Air Force sees fit to decorate Rowdy after his distinguished service during those dark days. My best to the Murphy family, and “Banzai!”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK HAGOPIAN AND JAY ANDERSON

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am proud to recognize Mark Hagopian of Auburn and Jay Anderson of Sandown as November’s Granite Staters of the Month. Mark and Jay partnered together to raise COVID-19 relief money for Granite Staters by designing and selling their own special IPA, which they named “Brain Fog.”

In March of 2020, Mark Hagopian was rushed to Elliot Hospital in Manchester and was immediately admitted to the ICU to be treated for COVID-19. After 3 weeks on a ventilator, Mark miraculously recovered thanks to the hard work of the nurses and medical staff—or “super heroes,” as he calls them.

After his recuperation, Mark wanted to help others, which led him to partner with Elliot Hospital to set up the NH COVID-19 Family Relief Fund. Proceeds go to Granite Staters who continue to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and can help these individuals with healthcare copays, rehabilitation, groceries, and other costs.

When Mark asked his friend Jay Anderson, owner of From the Barrel Brewing Company in Derry, about teaming up, Jay said it was a “no-brainer.” They got to work designing a special IPA with the proceeds going to the NH COVID-19 Family Relief Fund.

Since Mark had been a regular customer, Jay knew exactly what type of beer Mark would like, and together, they named the final product “Brain Fog.”

At the launch event for “Brain Fog,” Granite Staters mingled and heard from Mark and Jay about the NH COVID-19 Family Relief Fund. The beer itself was wildly successful, as evidenced by the fact that Mark and Jay sold out of all the cases of “Brain Fog” that first weekend. The duo plans to revive the brew and continue fundraising for the Elliot Hospital in the future.

Mark and Jay are shining examples of what it means to be Granite Staters. After undergoing intense medical hardship, Mark turned around and started giving back to his community, and Jay was more than ready to help. Not only did they show impressive innovation and entrepreneurship, but they also brought people together during an especially hard time as our State and country continue to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am honored to name them as Granite Staters of the Month, and I look forward to seeing how their future endeavors continue to make our communities stronger.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Norman Jay Ornstein of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Ms. Danna Bell of Washington, DC.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator GARY C. PETERS, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Laurel A. Blatchford, of the District of Columbia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice David Arthur Mader.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2644. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,