

Why the heck does everybody in Washington think they are above us? Why do they pass laws and never have to live under them themselves?

Well, this is a crystal-clear example of that. What is worse is that the statute itself sets out that we would live under ObamaCare, getting our health care from the ObamaCare exchange just like millions of other Americans.

If you don't believe that is what the statute mandates, look exactly at the particulars of how Congress and the President are currently getting around that through the special OPM rule that President Obama issued. This rule says that Congress can get its health care from a special small business exchange in the District of Columbia and can have a huge taxpayer-funded subsidy applied, even though it is unavailable to every other American at our income level.

Now, what is wrong with that? Well, under the ObamaCare statute itself, that small business exchange is specifically set up and regulated and limited to small businesses of 50 employees or less.

How did Congress define itself as a small business with 50 employees or less? It is interesting, if you pull the paperwork that the leadership of the House and Senate sent over to allow Members to participate in this exchange. The folks who submitted that paperwork on behalf of the House and the Senate, who signed off on it saying that everything contained therein was true and accurate, said: How many employees does the Senate have? Forty-five. How many employees does the House have? Forty-five.

Really? That is interesting. This is a flatout lie. It is a flatout lie submitted in writing by the House and Senate on behalf of all of us to shoohorn Congress in to this small business exchange to get extra added benefits, to get this taxpayer-funded subsidy unavailable to every other American at our income level. And that proves how outrageous this end run around the statutory language is.

So again, I urge all our colleagues to come together in support of this fix and to say: Yes, it should be the first rule of American democracy that what we pass for the rest of America we live by ourselves. That is important, and we are going to do it in this case and in every case.

I urge my colleagues to support our freestanding bill—the No Exemption for Washington from ObamaCare Act. I urge our colleagues to support the floor amendment, which is the same as that freestanding bill, and to pass it as a floor amendment—to pass it into law through that mechanism.

Before yielding the floor, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during the quorum call be equally divided.

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JAMES WINNEFELD, JR.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to ADM James Winnefeld, Jr., who is retiring at the end of this month after serving with distinction for more than 37 years, culminating his career as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Throughout his service as a senior military leader, Admiral Winnefeld has provided this body, and in particular the Senate Committee on Armed Services, with valuable testimony and candid military advice. Over the last 4 years, Admiral Winnefeld has served as the ninth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His vast experience, knowledge, outstanding leadership, and professionalism, combined with his deep respect and consideration for our service men and women, will be greatly missed.

During his tenure as Vice Chairman, Admiral Winnefeld provided military advice to not only the legislative branch but also to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a wide range of complex military and national security issues during an extremely challenging period in our country's history.

In a challenging fiscal and security environment, Admiral Winnefeld helped to lead our military through global events and threats, to include the Department of Defense's rebalance to the Pacific, Iraq troop withdrawal, Afghanistan transition, the global threat of ISIL, instability in Syria, and Russia's provocative actions in Eastern Europe. In addition, the Vice Chair played key roles in advising our Nation's leaders on various counterterrorism efforts.

As Vice Chairman, he led the development and implementation of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review, an effort that involved thousands of senior leadership man hours. Pivotal to his role as the Vice Chairman, he also chaired the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, where he worked tirelessly to transform the requirement processes to become more agile, transparent, and inclusive. Admiral Winnefeld focused his efforts on the immediate capability needs of the combatant commanders and the most pressing military issues of the joint warfighter.

As cochair of the Defense Acquisitions Board, Admiral Winnefeld worked to link the requirements, resource, and acquisition communities in developing

programs to deliver appropriate capabilities to the joint warfighter at the right time and for the right price.

Admiral Winnefeld's work as a co-chair of the Nuclear Weapons Council ensured our military's nuclear enterprise and No. 1 priority remained viable and relevant as a strategic deterrent to our Nation's adversaries.

Admiral Winnefeld graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology—also known as Georgia Tech—and received his commission from the Navy ROTC Program there. He subsequently served with three fighter squadrons flying the F-14 Tomcat and as an instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School. Admiral Winnefeld's unit commands at sea include Fighter Squadron 211, the USS *Cleveland*, and the USS *Enterprise*.

He led the "Big E" through her 18th deployment, which included combat operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom immediately after the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001.

As the commander of Carrier Strike Group TWO, he led Task Forces 50, 152, and 58 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and maritime interception operations in the Arabian Gulf. He also served as the commander of the U.S. 6th Fleet, the commander of NATO Allied Joint Command Lisbon, and the commander of Striking and Support Forces NATO.

His shore tours include service in the Joint Staff Operations Directorate, as senior aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and as executive assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

As a flag officer, Admiral Winnefeld served ashore as the director of Warfare Programs and Transformational Concepts at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, as the director of Joint Innovation and Experimentation at U.S. Joint Forces Command, and as the director for Strategic Plans and Policy on the joint staff.

Prior to becoming the vice chairman, Admiral Winnefeld served as the commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Northern Command.

As the commander of NORAD and NORTHCOM, Admiral Winnefeld led historic advances in the working relationship between NORTHCOM, Homeland Security, FEMA, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs and Border Protection, and the National Guard, specifically with the dual status commander concept. In addition, he led the U.S.-Mexican military-to-military relationship to a historic level of collaboration and brought tangible results to our Nation's important struggle against the fast-growing transnational criminal organizations.

Through his distinctive accomplishments, Admiral Winnefeld culminated a long and distinguished career in the service of our Nation. His tenure leaves a lasting, positive legacy on our armed services. I appreciate his extraordinary service which reflected great credit

upon himself, the U.S. Navy, and the Department of Defense.

For nearly 40 years, Admiral Winnefeld has performed his duty professionally, honestly, and with great dedication. Our Nation will miss his leadership and expertise. We wish him and his family all the best as he moves to the next phase of his life. Personally, I want to thank Admiral Winnefeld and say job well done, God bless, and Godspeed.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NEW HORIZONS PLUTO MISSION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, 46 years ago yesterday, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people to walk on the Moon.

September will bring the 53rd anniversary of President Kennedy's speech that launched America on the quest to land them on the Moon. He set that goal for the country not because it was easy but because it was hard. I am here to congratulate the men and women of the New Horizons mission for making the hard work of sending a spacecraft to Pluto look easy.

One week ago today, what had once been a fuzzy picture of Pluto came into sharp focus. Dramatic transformations inspire everyone. As you can see, NASA delivered an amazing before-and-after story. Until the New Horizons flyby, the best picture we had of Pluto offered little detail of our neighbor at the edge of the solar system, but now we can see distinct features on its surface, including something that looks like a heart. Who couldn't love that. Thank you for this great picture.

It took the New Horizons spacecraft 9½ years to cross the 3 billion miles between Pluto and Earth, but it was a mission much longer in the making.

In the late 1980s, a group of scientists came together to advocate for sending a spacecraft to the edge of the solar system. Such a mission would tell us more about Pluto and once again push back the edge of the known frontier. Many of those scientists are still involved with the New Horizons mission, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's own Richard Binzel.

While these scientists pushed to get the green light for the mission, it was only achieved by the partnership between NASA, some of our best U.S. universities and the aerospace industry, and the hard work and innovation of their scientists, engineers, and staff.

From just the initial information returned this week, scientists have to rethink what they thought they knew about Pluto, its Moons, and its space environment. Images came back of

mountains of frozen water as high as the Rocky Mountains on Pluto. On its Moon Charon, we can now see deep canyons and a row of cliffs and troughs stretching 600 miles, as far as from Washington, DC, to Atlanta.

Instruments on the New Horizons probe confirm that the Pluto system contains a large amount of frozen water. That is an essential building block of life. One thing scientists didn't see—many of the meteorite impact craters—suggests that Pluto was geologically active relatively recently.

The voyage of discovery from the flyby will continue for years to come. Not only will scientists learn more, but they will also train the next generation of planetary scientists. I am proud the youngest member of the New Horizons team is Alissa Earle, a graduate student at MIT.

The New Horizons team is following in the great American exploration tradition. They are pushing back the boundaries of geography, knowledge, and technology. In doing so, they are inspiring the world. No matter what you think of the classification of Pluto as a dwarf planet, we can all agree that the New Horizons mission is already a massive achievement.

I look forward to the further revelations it will bring as its data streams back to Earth and it travels to the far edges of our solar system.

Finally, I would like to note that in the same week of taking us to Pluto, NASA also commenced the continuous monitoring of the Sun and the Earth—the only home humans have known thus far. I hope the events of this past week confirm the importance of using all of NASA's tools to further the exploration of our solar system and universe and better understand our own planet as well.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING THE LIVES OF FIVE AMERICAN HEROES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I am here with our senior Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER to speak on something very tragic that occurred in our State and in my hometown.

I rise to honor the lives of five American heroes—the five American heroes we honor today with the lowering of the flags here at the U.S. Capitol. Our community is heartbroken, as has been said many times, our State is heartbroken, and I believe our Nation is heartbroken that these outstanding young men died in the way they did, but we honor their lives. We mourn

their loss. We think of the greatness they embodied: Thomas Sullivan, David Wyatt, Carson Holmquist, Skip Wells, and Randall Smith.

I think as the Nation has learned about these individuals carrying out what many would consider to be mundane activities in support of our U.S. military, those who protect us, they understand the greatness they symbolized, most of them having served in Afghanistan and Iraq and some of them younger, beginning their careers, but all having excellent backgrounds and exemplifying the very best America has to offer.

Our Nation mourns, our community mourns, and we have lost five of our greatest. Also, hospitalized in Chattanooga today is a young man named Dennis Pedigo, whose mother and father both served on the Chattanooga Police Department, and he has followed in their footsteps.

I think people have heard all around our country the tremendous heroism that was exemplified by the Chattanooga Police Department, which rushed at the assailant and brought him to his end—by the way, trained to do so, trained to go at them. This was not a SWAT team, but these were patrol squads that were trained to deal with this kind of situation and no doubt saved the lives of other people in doing so. So we honor them. We honor all of them. We celebrate them. As a community we have been harmed, and our community has prayed.

We had a vigil on Friday night that was extraordinary. Senator ALEXANDER was there with our Governor, our mayor, county officials, and others. It was an extraordinary time of our community coming together around what has happened.

I do believe that what people all over the country and the world have heard about "Chattanooga strong" is true, and I think our community will be even stronger because of what has happened, and our Nation must understand where we are in the world and that these types of activities will possibly continue.

I had a very good conversation on Friday with the Pentagon to talk about what they are doing. I know threat activity has been rising for some time, and they are looking at what needs to be done to ensure this doesn't happen again.

I had a very good conversation this morning with Senator MCCAIN, who I know is leading efforts with House Members to figure out if there is a way to add something to the NDAA, a piece of legislation that we can deal with very quickly here so we can make sure we have policies to protect lives.

Our community is praying for these individuals. It is my hope that we will put policies in place to ensure we appropriately protect these individuals.

In addition to that, there are tangible things we can do. I know that when something like this happens,