

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to amend my previous consent request that it will be debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each until 11 a.m.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT JOSEPH LEON GEORGE SHOULD BE HONORED FOR HEROISM AT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, ON DECEMBER 7, 1941

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, last month I spoke here about an amazing story I was told when I had the opportunity to host several veterans who survived the sinking of the USS *Arizona* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. They recalled to me the incredible story of a true American hero named Joe George, and I would like to briefly remind everyone of that story now.

On December 7, 1941, Joe was a 26-year-old boatswain's mate second class aboard the repair ship USS *Vestal* in Pearl Harbor, HI. That morning, the *Vestal* was moored alongside the USS *Arizona*.

At 7:48 a.m., many sailors, including Joe, had just finished their breakfast when the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked Pearl Harbor.

As we know, the *Arizona* suffered a direct hit by a Japanese bomb that detonated in the ship's powder magazine. The resulting explosion sank the ship and claimed the lives of 1,177 servicemen.

During this unimaginable chaos and carnage, Joe George displayed stunning composure and courage. Joe spotted six sailors trapped in the control tower of the sinking USS *Arizona*. These men were severely burned and were searching for a way to safety.

Those six wounded sailors were Seaman First Class Harold Kuhn, Seaman

First Class Russell Lott, Gunner's Mate Third Class Earl Riner, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Alvin Dvork, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton, and Fire Controlman Third Class Lauren Bruner.

Upon seeing these men, Joe threw a heaving line between the *Vestal* and the *Arizona* to rescue the wounded soldiers from the sinking ship. Suspended 40 feet in the air, the six sailors climbed 70 feet hand-over-hand across the rope to safety on board the *Vestal*. These sailors did all this while enduring injuries so severe that two would succumb to their wounds in the weeks following the attack. As they struggled across the heavy line, Joe George remained close by, all the while encouraging the men to push on.

The four soldiers who survived their injuries each returned to serve with honor during World War II, and then went on to live long lives. Joe George's legacy of heroism will remain alive forever in the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the four sailors who survived that infamous day thanks to Joe George's incredible bravery and service.

Joe George was never awarded a medal for his role in the rescue of these six sailors, although his commanding officer commended his courageous actions.

When I met one of the *Arizona* survivors who was rescued by Joe, he told me:

Joe George was never awarded anything for his bravery. He is no longer with us, but I believe in his memory he should be awarded the Navy Cross.

Lauren Bruner was another survivor Joe saved. He said to me:

The six of us would not have survived except for his courage, in spite of being at high risk himself. He fully deserves high commendations for his actions. I feel he should be recognized for this courage and presented the Navy Cross.

In his own words during an interview in 1978, Joe said:

I'll tell you, the only thing I could tell you about that day. . . . My conscience was my guide.

Well, his conscience was that of a hero. We need more people like Joe George in this world.

That is why today I am committed to honoring Joe and why I rise today with the honor and privilege to call for unanimous consent in the adoption of a resolution honoring Joseph Leon George.

Joe passed away in 1996, and it is long overdue that the Senate, the U.S. Navy, and a grateful nation honor the heroism of Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joseph Leon George.

God bless Joe George, whose immense courage and astounding composure serves as an example for the men and women in uniform who follow in his wake. Let us never forget their heroism and sacrifice.

I would like to thank my colleagues Senators GARDNER, LEE, COTTON, MCCASKILL, and BENNET for joining me

in this resolution and for helping to ensure its adoption here today.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 243.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 243) expressing the sense of the Senate that Joseph Leon George should be honored for heroism at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 243) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of August 2, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield back, and 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. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HURRICANE IRMA

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I am here to give a report on behalf of Florida to the Senate. Senator RUBIO and I were there all day yesterday in Miami and in other parts of South Florida, and we are preparing for what will be another Andrew.

Andrew was thought to be a category 4, but it actually was a category 5, with winds in excess of 155 miles per hour. Likewise, that is what we have now. I see the leader has come in. I will speak for just a few minutes, then, giving an update.

There are a number of things. I believe the Federal Government is prepared, unlike we were 25 years ago with Hurricane Andrew.

The Federal Government is certainly prepositioning supplies, but look at the situation with regard to FEMA. FEMA is stretched, and of all things, FEMA runs out of money unless we act by tomorrow.

Thus, I left Florida in the middle of the night to come back to make sure that it has my stamp of imprimatur on this legislation.

I am very glad that the majority leader has agreed to double the

amount, basically \$7.5 billion for FEMA and another \$7.5 billion for CDBG's, or community development block grants, both of which would be for natural disasters. Because of that, it gives the flexibility to FEMA that some of the money will be used in case Irma hits Florida. But there is also the fact that Irma has already devastated our fellow U.S. citizens in the Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico. So as to this package, it is essential that we pass this legislation and pass it quickly, and especially pass it before tomorrow.

There are some needs that need to be called to the attention of FEMA. I have emailed yesterday to the Administrator of FEMA Brock Long. People are trying to get out, but they are stuck on the roads, and now they are running out of gasoline.

Looking at the pictures on anything going north out of Florida, the roads are jammed. The interstates and the turnpike are jammed. The phenomenon that is occurring is that people need gasoline and they are running out on the road, which adds all the more to the chaos. They are going to the gasoline stations and the gas stations are running out of gasoline. So I made an urgent plea yesterday, and I would make that to FEMA again, that we get gasoline into the State of Florida and down into the peninsula, so as the evacuation orders come along the coast, as the hurricane gets closer and closer, people will be able to flee.

This is an unusual one. Usually, we will see the tracks from the National Hurricane Center move around. Basically, the track of what is expected from the National Hurricane Center has stayed fairly steady for last 36 hours.

We will get our next update at 11 this morning, but it will hit South Florida somewhere in the Miami area, and it will go right up the coast. It will go on up the coast of Georgia, South Carolina, and into North Carolina. That is a massive population along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Finally, I would state that, as we consider this package, which I think we will pass, I want the Senate to be forewarned that this \$15 billion package is only temporary. It will probably only take us through mid-October, at the most. With the massive number of requirements in Texas, and add to that at least that much, if not more, for the eastern seaboard, particularly with not only water damage but wind damage that is being done and the destruction of the residences and people being homeless, what we have seen in Texas, unfortunately, with the terrible things that have happened there, that could almost be so overwhelmed by what could happen in Florida.

I urge the Senate—I implore the Senate, and I beg the Senate—to pass this package while recognizing that there is going to have to be a lot more to come.

Finally, congratulations to the minority leader, the Democratic leader. I

think of him as the majority leader. My congratulations to him. He is a consummate dealmaker, and I say that in the best sense of the word because, absolutely, that is what the American people want us to do. They want us to get together in a bipartisan way to get things done—to build bipartisan consensus to get results. Senator SCHUMER, the Democratic leader, has done that, and he has done it with flying colors.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATOR FROM FLORIDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my friend from Florida for his kind words.

During these troubled times in the State of Florida—and we hope and pray that Irma will not do too much damage, although signs point in the other direction—the people of Florida could not have a stronger, more effective, more compassionate advocate than the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON. He knows how to get things done, and he knows how to inform people about what is going on. He is able to reach across the aisle, in a bipartisan way, to help in all times but, particularly, in times of need.

The people of Florida are lucky to have him as their Senator, particularly at this moment. I would say to my dear friend BILL NELSON.

HURRICANE HARVEY DISASTER RELIEF, THE DEBT CEILING, AND FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, the congressional leadership and the President reached a bipartisan deal on three crucial issues: short-term aid for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, the debt ceiling, and government funding.

Alongside the aid package for Texas and Louisiana, the Senate will take up and pass an extension of government funding and the debt ceiling, both to December 15, although that may be modified to December 8, as I understand it. We all agreed to work together to avoid a default in December as well.

This is a good agreement for the American people, and everyone should breathe a huge sigh of relief. This agreement takes the threat of a shutdown and default off the table this month and will help us quickly get resources to FEMA and other agencies that are helping with rescue and recovery in the wake of Harvey and that will, in all likelihood, be needed in the wake of Irma as well.

The Nation has been clamoring for bipartisanship—for the two parties to

work together to do the country's business—rather than to engage in needless brinksmanship. Yesterday's agreement was a ray of hope for both parties coming together on the big issues. Also, let it be a ray of hope that both parties can come together to help the Dreamers.

We Democrats have said from the very beginning of this Congress that we are willing to work with our Republican colleagues and the President for the good of the country so long as we do not sacrifice our principles. We have never been for obstruction for obstruction's sake, and we will never be for that. This agreement is a reminder that we do not always have to wait until the eleventh hour—risking shutdown, risking default—in order to compromise and do the right thing. Importantly, this agreement gives Congress a way forward on what are some of the thorniest issues this month, allowing us to move to other vital work.

The 3-month agreement is a compromise. In the past, so many of our colleagues have said: "If the other party is President, we are not going to do anything to help." We did not want to say that. We did not want to say: "It is all on you." We wanted to compromise. A compromise is just that—not dictating what should happen but working together. I give the President credit for understanding that in the Oval Office when Leader PELOSI and I made the compromise suggestion. I thank him for it.

DREAM ACT AND OTHER WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, since President Trump's decision to end DACA on Tuesday, it is absolutely necessary that Congress move forward to pass a clean Dream Act while 800,000 Dreamers anxiously await action by this Congress. There is no reason to wait. Let's put a clean Dream Act on the floor, which I believe would pass by a significant margin, and tell these hard-working Dreamers that they belong in this country, too—the country they want to be part of desperately. If the majority leader and Speaker do not offer a clean Dream Act, we Democrats will find other legislative vehicles to attach it to until it passes.

Let me say this. I spoke once again to the President this morning. He called and said that he wanted to help with the Dream Act. There are many ways to help, and here are two. One is to persuade other Republican Senators to cosponsor the bill that has been introduced by Senators DURBIN and GRAHAM. We now have four Republican cosponsors, and we need more. There are many in the Senate who seem to be sympathetic to the Dream Act. Maybe the President can help them get to cosponsor. The second is to urge my friend, the Republican leader from Kentucky, and the Speaker of the House, Mr. RYAN, to put the Dream Act on the floor ASAP. We can get this