

walls to stop them. Let's be humanitarians as well as security agents. We can do that. That is not inconsistent with the American way. That is not inconsistent at all.

I appreciate the time on the floor today. I urge all my colleagues to vote for this compromise to open this government back up. Importantly, I urge my colleagues and in the House—let's not give these Federal workers just their backpay, as we passed before, let's do what is right. If we mean what we say about how we appreciate our Federal workers, if we mean what we say when we call and say how patriotic they are, let's do to them what the government would do otherwise. Let's give them the interest on these 35 days of backpay. Then we will truly fulfill our obligations as best we can.

Importantly, let's not let this happen again. For God's sake, do our duty. Let's not let this happen again in 3 weeks and go through this process once more. Let's get to work. Let's knuckle down. Let's secure the borders, but let's also let this crisis within our borders that has been created over the last 35 days end forever. Let that crisis go away and never come back.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

REMEMBERING DEIDRE "DEE DEE" MENGEDOHT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my sad duty today to pay tribute to a fallen Kentucky hero, Louisville Metro Police Department Detective Deidre Mengedoht. Dee Dee, as her friends called her, was tragically killed in the line of duty on Christmas Eve. Her family and our community are left to mourn this painful loss and to recognize her incredible service to Louisville.

A graduate of Eastern High School and the University of Louisville, Detective Mengedoht chose to dedicate her life to the service of her community. In 2011, she joined the LMPD's training academy. Since the day she took her oath, Detective Mengedoht proved herself worthy of the trust placed in her. With real love for the community under her protection, she worked as a beat officer before earning the rank of detective.

For 7 and a half years, Detective Mengedoht served the department and the people of Louisville. She quickly gained the respect of her colleagues, who recognized a passion for law en-

forcement and for community engagement. According to those who had the privilege to know her, Detective Mengedoht displayed the attributes of a true public servant. Police Chief Steve Conrad said she "would fight tirelessly to seek justice for victims whose cases she was investigating." In her important work for the city of Louisville, Detective Mengedoht would always give more of herself than was asked.

While families throughout Kentucky and the Nation celebrated Christmas Eve, Detective Mengedoht was at her post, protecting the community. That afternoon, she conducted a traffic stop, a routine procedure for any member of law enforcement. Tragedy struck without warning as a semi-truck hit her police cruiser. Detective Mengedoht was killed at the scene.

The heartbreaking incident left the community shaken. The LMPD lost a critical member of its force, and Detective Mengedoht's family—especially her 9-year-old son, Preston, will never be the same. Almost immediately, expressions of condolences and support poured into the city. Downtown, the city hall clock shone with a blue light, in honor of the incredible sacrifice our men and women of law enforcement undertake each and every day to protect the public. The Louisville Metro Police Foundation also established a fund in Detective Mengedoht's name to support her family.

At a funeral service filled with tributes to her character, bravery, and integrity, the Kentucky State Police volunteered to take over the shifts of her colleagues so they could attend. More than 3,000 law enforcement officers traveled from around the Commonwealth and the Nation to join the LMPD in saluting Detective Mengedoht. Even in the rain, hundreds of Kentuckians lined the streets to pay their respects.

To Detective Mengedoht's family, including her brothers and sisters at the LMPD and her parents, her sister, and Preston, I would like to extend my sincere condolences. Her sacrifice bestows great honor onto all those who wear the LMPD uniform. During this difficult time, Elaine and I hope that the memories of Detective Mengedoht's life and her selfless service can provide much-needed comfort. It is my privilege to remember Detective Deidre Mengedoht's exemplary service to the people of Louisville, and I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring this Kentucky hero.

TRIBUTE TO CHAD SCHULKEN

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, today, we say farewell to a member of our Senate family: Chad Schulken. For more than 16 years, Chad has served the U.S. Senate as a professional staff member and, most recently, clerk on the Appropriations Committee.

He started his career on the committee working for Senator Byrd in

2003 as staff of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary. He specialized in budgetary and policy matters affecting the Department of Justice and the Federal judiciary, including the FBI, DEA, ATF, and the U.S. Marshall Service. Two years later, when the Appropriation Committee reorganized, he joined a newly formed subcommittee responsible for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs matters. As the lead staff handling the Department of Veterans Affairs, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the American Battle Monuments Commission, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Chad was charged with developing, managing, and negotiating the policy and funding priorities for the VA. Ultimately, it was his job to make sure that Congress kept its promise to the men, women, and the families who have served our country.

Chad has forgotten more about the resource and management needs of the VA than most anyone working in government will ever know, so no one was surprised when he was promoted to be the subcommittee's clerk in 2017. As the lead Democratic staffer, Chad negotiated and helped develop the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. He helped me in my role as the subcommittee's ranking member. He worked with Republican staff, stewarding the interests of all Democratic Senate offices. He managed the bill across the Senate floor and negotiated a final conference agreement with the House.

Chad has become one of the Senate's foremost experts on budgetary policy and appropriations law. His mastery of Senate rules and procedure have made him a formidable legislative tactician and negotiator. His commitment to his work—to the unique collaborative process that fulfills the Congress's constitutional duty to appropriate taxpayer dollars—is clear in the many weekends and holidays he missed with family and friends to be here to negotiate appropriations bills. It is no wonder he left an impression on many Members, including those he served directly: Senators Byrd, Inouye, Mikulski, LEAHY, Hollings, FEINSTEIN, JOHN-SON, REED, TESTER, and myself.

For his professionalism and commitment to our country and the people who have served in our military, we owe a great deal to Chad for his service in the U.S. Senate. We thank him and wish him well as he embarks on a new adventure, one we hope will give him more time with his family: his wife Jessica; three daughters Abi, Bella, and Hundley; and his son Griffin. From all of us in our Senate family, I extend a sincere thank you to Chad and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first