

Angelique Ramirez, Sabika Sheikh, Christopher Stone, Cynthia Tisdale, and Kimberly Vaughan.

I would like us to pause for a moment of silence as we remember these brave souls.

Their names will live on. Their killer's name will not. His name is never worth mentioning again.

Thirteen others were also brutally wounded, including three substitute teachers. Flo Rice, one of the substitute teachers at the high school that day, was shot five times. I have gotten to know Flo and her husband Scott well in the weeks and months since the shooting.

But that day was not merely a day of great tragedy. It was also a day of incredible bravery. Santa Fe police officers did their duty and swiftly engaged the shooter. One of those police officers, John Barnes, was critically wounded in the process. They shot back, and, ultimately, they took the coward into custody.

Santa Fe students also proved themselves to be heroes. One of them, Riley Garcia, made the ultimate sacrifice. He held a door shut to give other students time to escape, and he was killed in the process. Other students tended to the wounded and to each other.

In the wake of the shooting, Texans grieved with the families and friends of those we lost. We heard stories of terror and stories of hope.

I was at my home in Houston that morning. Santa Fe High School is about 45 minutes away from my house. When I got the call as to what was happening, I jumped into a truck and headed down there. I spent the entire day with families who had lost their children, with first responders, with teachers, with school leaders, with a community that was grieving mightily. But in Santa Fe, I also saw a boundless spirit and hope and unity.

I remember that afternoon, traveling to the hospital and visiting with a number of the students who had been shot and wounded that day. I remember meeting Clayton, a young man who had been shot just that morning. He had pins in his arm from being shot twice. Clayton described how he jumped over the fence, even after having been shot, and his friends helped to carry him to safety. This young man described how he is a bull rider and a pole vaulter. I asked him if he is a lefty or righty. He said he is a lefty, and that was the arm that was wounded. But he said with a smile: "You know, now I gotta learn to ride a bull with my right arm." That is the toughness and the spirit of these students and their entire community.

All across Texas and all across the country, millions of Americans lifted those children and lifted those families up in prayer. You know, it has become politically fashionable now to deride thoughts and prayers. To suggest that thoughts and prayers are not appropriate, I will say this: We should always lift up in prayer those who are

victimized by violence, by brutality, by terrorism, by murder. I believe in the power of prayer, and I will tell you that the community of Santa Fe leaned on the power of prayer in the wake of that tragedy.

Now, thoughts and prayers are not themselves a substitute for action. In the days and the weeks that followed, I met with mothers and fathers and teachers and students. I hosted Santa Fe students here in the Senate Dining Room. We talked with law enforcement and with first responders. I sat down with the President, and he traveled down to meet with the Santa Fe families. I participated in a roundtable with Governor Abbott, families from Santa Fe and other communities victimized by violence, and officials at the Federal, State, and local levels. We discussed how we could do a better job of protecting our schools and protecting our children. We have lost too many kids to homicidal action, and it has to stop.

We have to do much more to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals and to better treat the mentally ill—all while preserving and protecting our constitutional rights.

There was a universal agreement in the wake of Santa Fe that, as a State and as a Nation, we had to see justice done and to take every step to try to ensure that such an attack never occurs again.

Soon after, I was gratified to hear that the Department of Education announced \$1 million in Federal funds for the Santa Fe Independent School District through Project School Emergency Response to Violence, or Project SERV. It is a crucial first step in Federal funding to help the Santa Fe school community to recover and protect all its students, but the story doesn't end there.

In addition to a State prosecution, most of us assumed there would be a Federal case against the Santa Fe shooter, as well, because his massive assault was on students and teachers in a public school, and, crucially, because authorities found explosive devices on the school grounds and off campus, including pipe bombs and a Molotov cocktail. To any reasonable observer, this would open the case to Federal explosives and terrorism charges.

All of us were committed to seeing the attacker prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Early press reports, however, indicated that Federal authorities were not going to proceed with the Federal case. Those press reports dismayed me—dismayed many—in particular because the shooter was under 18 at the time of the massacre, which means it is likely that the maximum State sentence he would receive is 40 years, which means that, if only State charges were brought, the shooter would be potentially eligible for release at 57 years old. Releasing this mass murderer into society would not be just, and it would not be right.

Thankfully, Attorney General Barr agreed, and it has been publicly re-

ported now that Federal charges have come forward to ensure that this attacker is brought to justice and faces the full consequences for the horrific acts of that morning.

(The remarks of Senator CRUZ pertaining to the submission of S. 1442 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. CRUZ. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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 MARILYN SKOGLUND

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a remarkable and unique person, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Skoglund, who will soon be retiring after serving 25 years with the Vermont judiciary.

Justice Skoglund is what we all want to see in a jurist and public servant. She is dedicated, personable, and highly committed to the rule of law, but her path to the Vermont Supreme Court was anything but typical. As a single mother working hard to get by in the 1970s, law school was not an option. Instead, she took advantage of Vermont's "Reading the Law" approach that allowed her to study while serving as an apprentice of sorts with the Vermont Attorney General's office. After being admitted to the Vermont Bar, she would go on to serve as chief of the civil law and public protection divisions in the AG's office before being appointed to the bench in 1994 by then-Governor Howard Dean. She would be elevated to the supreme court just 3 years later. At the time, she was only the second woman to serve on Vermont's highest court. Today, women make up the majority of its five justices.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Justice Skoglund during her many years of living and working in my hometown of Montpelier. Her personal story was so compelling that she was my first choice in 2008 to keynote Vermont's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference, an annual event I have now hosted for 23 years.

But no tribute to Justice Skoglund would be complete if it did not mention her keen sense of humor. Perhaps it is this trait that has so deftly served her these many years, for as serious as the supreme court must be in delivering justice, Marilyn Skoglund has demonstrated time and again the benefit of