

If there are ways to improve on this legislation, I am wide open for that, but if we don't put in place an obligation that is up-to-date and a moral obligation that I think we have all honored, if we don't put in place a legal obligation to make sure that if you see evidence of foreign intervention, you report it, then shame on us.

I will close with this. We do it at the airport—you see something, say something. Shouldn't we have at least those same standards, in terms of protection of our critical democracy, going forward?

I yield the floor.

#### ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I call my colleagues' attention to an issue that has affected many families in Iowa and throughout the country. That issue is elder abuse and neglect of those same people.

Many older Americans reside in assisted care facilities, nursing homes, and all kinds of group living arrangements. It is critical that these care facilities and the staff at the facilities not only follow the law but provide the type of care they would want their own family members to receive.

The Des Moines Register last year published reports suggesting a troubling lack of compassionate care for elderly residents in some of the nursing homes in my State. We also had other reports surfacing in 2017 of nursing home workers in at least 18 different facilities taking humiliating and unauthorized photos of elderly residents and posting them on social media websites.

Earlier this year, I convened an oversight hearing in which we heard from the daughters of two elderly women who resided in a federally funded nursing home. One testified that her mother, an Iowan, died due to neglect in a facility that held the highest possible rating—a five-star rating—on a Federal Government website. The family discovered that the nursing home was the subject of multiple complaint investigations related to those complaints in recent years. Yet, after each complaint, government inspectors reported the facility had come back “into substantial compliance with program requirements.”

At this same hearing, another witness from another State testified about her mother's rape in a nursing home.

These and similar cases around the country point to the need for reform. By one estimate, 1 in 10 persons older than the age of 60 will fall victim to elder abuse each year.

According to the inspector general at the Department of Health and Human Services, one-third of nursing home residents may experience harm while under the care of these facilities. In more than half of these cases, the harm was preventable. That is why statutes like the Elder Abuse Prevention and

Prosecution Act, which I championed in the last Congress; also the Older Americans Act, which promotes seniors' independence; and the Elder Justice Act, which I have long supported, are all very important pieces of legislation.

On Monday, I introduced a resolution designating June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. I would like to thank my lead cosponsor, Senator BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, for joining me in introducing this legislation. The ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, as well as the leaders of Senate Aging Committee, Senators COLLINS and CASEY, along with Senators LANKFORD and HASSAN, also are original cosponsors. I thank all of them for doing that.

This bipartisan resolution recognizes those adult protective services and healthcare personnel, ombudsmen, criminal justice personnel, and advocates who help prevent and combat elder abuse in communities all around our country.

It calls for us to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse. Congress has a very key role to play in ensuring the protections of seniors, not only in the passing of legislation but in our constitutional oversight role to make sure the executive branch of government faithfully executes those laws. In faithfully executing our laws in spirit as well as in the legalese, they will be helping us prevent elder abuse.

Years ago, I joined my colleagues in developing an earlier version of the Elder Justice Act. It is time to update and extend the key programs authorized under this important law, which authorized the Elder Justice Coordinating Council and also authorized resources to support forensic centers to investigate elder abuse, among other initiatives in that important legislation. I am working closely with the members of the Elder Justice Coalition on legislation to accomplish that goal.

It is also time for us to update and extend the Older Americans Act, which I have long supported.

As Finance Committee chairman, I intend to convene a hearing to discuss ways that we can continue to promote the health and well-being of our seniors, which is an issue I have cared about for a long time.

Creating a supportive, inclusive environment in our communities is essential to preventing elder abuse, and that is what the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is all about.

I urge my colleagues to join me in raising awareness for the most vulnerable among us, protecting our loved ones and protecting people we don't know, but in the process of our doing that, we empower all citizens to take a stand against elder abuse.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. 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 OUR ARMED FORCES

##### LANCE CORPORAL BRENT ZOUCHA

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to continue my tribute to Nebraska's heroes and the current generation of men and women who have given their lives while defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of these Nebraskans has a powerful story to tell. I will reflect today upon the life of LCpl Brent Zoucha of the Marine Corps.

Brent was born in Central City, NE, but he grew up in nearby Clarks, which is a small town of about 350 residents. While growing up, Rita, Brent's mother, described him as having a great smile and always goofing around. Brent was the youngest of four. He had two older brothers, Dominic and Dyrek, and an older sister, Sherri.

As the youngest of the bunch, Brent had to learn to adapt in the household. This would require him to wake up early to ensure he would have hot water when he got ready for the day. He was also known for acquiring his brother Dyrek's clothes as they were similar in size and only a few years apart.

Brent loved sports cars—a passion that pushed him to work at the local gas and oil shop at the age of 14. Because he was an easygoing youngster, Brent got along with all of his siblings extremely well. He loved sports and followed many professional teams, especially the New York Yankees and the Green Bay Packers. He had a very large baseball card collection and a special interest in the legendary Babe Ruth.

While living in Clarks, Brent developed his athletic ability and participated in basketball and track and field. His 6-foot-5-inch frame made him a perfect fit for both basketball and the high jump, and he was excellent at both. Rita, Brent's mother, fondly remembers the day that Brent came home while holding the rim and parts of the backboard to the basketball hoop at the school. He told her he had dunked the basketball so hard that he had broken the entire hoop. While Rita was worried about paying for a replacement, all Brent could do was laugh and smirk at his great athletic achievement.

Like many small town Nebraskan boys, Brent also spent much of his time hunting and fishing. He also had a strong bond with his animals and even trained one of his chickens to fly onto his shoulder on command. During high school, when Brent wasn't working at Pollard Propane & Oil, he could be found hanging out with his friends on the weekend or with Meghan Hammond, his long-time girlfriend.