

HONORING SERGEANT MIKE STEPHEN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Sergeant Mike Stephen of the Stone County Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Stephen was mortally wounded in the line of duty on July 18, 2019.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army who spent 20 years in law enforcement, Mike Stephen was a true public servant. He bravely wore many of the uniforms we associate with serving and protecting communities. And his work didn't stop in his own community; he also advocated for his brothers and sisters in blue before the Arkansas State Legislature.

Mike's second home was the fire station. He started serving at the Pineville Fire Department when he was 16 years old, and for the last 11 years, he served as chief. His colleagues at the fire department had great respect and admiration for him. He was known as a leader who put 110 percent into everything he did.

Sergeant Stephen's colleagues in the sheriff's office will remember him as a man who led from the front and pushed everyone to do better.

Sergeant Stephen truly was a hero. We honor his service and sacrifice. Certainly my thoughts and prayers are with his wife Susan, along with many other family members, friends, and colleagues in the law enforcement community. I humbly offer my sincere condolences as they grieve Mike's passing.

I stand with all Arkansans in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for Sergeant Stephen's steadfast devotion to serve as a law enforcement officer. It takes a special person to put their life on the line every day to protect our communities. Sergeant Stephen exemplified what it meant to serve and protect, running toward danger as an Army veteran, a member of the Stone County Sheriff's Office, and as Pineville fire chief. Arkansas will be forever grateful for his sacrifice.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today's heat index is a brutal reminder that we are in the height of summer. While we all struggle to stay cool, too many children across the country have to deal with an additional discomfort this time of the year—hunger.

We can't control the temperature outside, but we do have an opportunity to help relieve their hunger pangs by modernizing USDA's Summer Food Service Program, which offers children from low-income families free lunch and snacks in the summer.

The Summer Food Service Program is hamstrung by rules that date back to the 1960s and dictate a one-size-fits-all approach to the problem. Because of this, five out of six of the children who participate in the school lunch program during the school year miss out on meals during the summer. The program falls short because it is inflexible. It requires that children travel to

a central location and eat their meals together. While this works well in some communities, too many children still go hungry during the summer.

More than 14 million low-income children across the country live in communities that are ineligible to operate an open summer meals site. Even in communities where there are sites, access can be far from easy. Lack of transportation and extreme weather often keep children away. In rural areas, where roughly 3 million low-income children live, the closest site could be several miles away.

Senator LEAHY and I are leading a bipartisan charge to overcome this challenge and make Federal child nutrition programs more efficient, flexible, and better equipped to reach children in need. Our bill, the Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act of 2019, brings together Senators from different regions with views across the political spectrum in an effort to address this issue. It counts the majority leader as one of its original cosponsors, as well as Senators BROWN, HYDE-SMITH, BENNET, and HOEVEN. I am grateful for their support. We hope to add more names to this coalition moving forward.

The bipartisan group teamed up because we have seen the need for more options to end hunger in our communities and share a belief that the best solutions to this problem come from the ground up. The changes we have put forward come directly from the leaders of organizations in our communities who are dedicated to ensuring children do not go hungry during the summertime. They have seen firsthand how difficult these summer months are for children who are unable to access meals at a central location. Their expertise and ideas helped us fashion alternative options to provide States with flexibility that will help fill the gaps where the programs fall short.

The solution proposed by the Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act of 2019 channels the energy and want-to of these helpers to make the summer meals program work for all areas of the country. Kathy Webb, executive director of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, is one of those leaders on the ground in my State. She said the Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act of 2019 will make a "significant difference" because it "provides the options families need to overcome barriers to access nutritious food their kids need in the summer."

I would stress that the organizations that provide summer meals at centralized locations do an excellent job. Not only do they supply nutritious meals children need to ensure their development does not suffer while out of school, but they also provide educational and recreational activities in a social setting. But, again, this doesn't work for every child in need. Too many are falling through the cracks. In fact, summer meals currently reach less than 20 percent of children who participate in similar programs during the school year.

Our bill proposes two alternative options States could utilize through the Summer Food Service Program to reach these kids. The first would allow for meals to be consumed off-site through innovative means, like mobile feeding, and other programs, such as the backpack meals. The other option would authorize the summer EBT program, which would provide eligible families \$30 per summer month per child, with a maximum of \$100 per child per year, to purchase food from approved retailers. Summer EBT was shown to reduce child hunger by over 30 percent in USDA pilot programs.

To my colleagues, as you plan your itinerary for the August work period, I encourage you to visit summer feeding programs in your communities. Talk to those on the frontlines of this effort and ask them about our proposed changes to the Summer Food Service Program. I think you will find they face similar challenges to those we are seeking to overcome with the Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act of 2019. August is the ideal time to see how organizations in your communities are using the program to help those in need and how these proposed changes will help them increase their reach.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LISA W. HERSHMAN, OF INDIANA, TO BE CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE JOHN H. GIBSON II, RESIGNED.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

KATHERINE ANDREA LEMOS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE VANESSA LORRAINE ALLEN SUTHERLAND, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

ADAM SETH BOEHLER, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION. (NEW POSITION)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES B. HECKER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JASON T. EVANS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND