

Since then, many NATO partners have fought side by side with us in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in Syria.

We are not—and need not be—the world's policeman. Winning this long war, like the Cold War, will require sustained efforts and contributions not only from the United States but from our allies and especially from local partners. For example, in Afghanistan the vast majority of the fighting is done by local security forces, but we must always remember the global coalition to defeat the terrorists will not lead itself.

So, today, as we remember the tragedies of the past, we must renew our commitment to leading the fight for a better future. Today, may the memory of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives on this day in 2001 serve as a lasting reminder of what is at stake in the fight against terrorism and steel our resolve to continue the hard, necessary work of defending our homeland. May we always keep foremost in our thoughts all the U.S. servicemembers, intelligence officers, diplomats, and first responders who have given their lives in pursuit of our Nation's security.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the Akard nomination, the majority leader and Democratic leader both have a minute to speak and the Senate then observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). 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 bill clerk called the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day.

I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on my way up,

a firefighter I did blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year, we pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those we lost, but we also recognize, in the aftermath of September 11, the resiliency of the American people. The resiliency of New Yorkers shone through one of the darkest hours in our country.

Looking back remains difficult even after 18 years. I ride my bike through the city of New York and every fifth or sixth street is named after a firefighter or a police officer who died, as are parts of Brooklyn, Bay Ridge, and places like that. I will never forget. I think of it all the time.

The day after, when President Bush sent Senator Clinton and me to go up to New York in planes, we were the only planes in the sky. We were in an airliner that had us surrounded by F-18s and F-16s. When we landed, we went down to the site. The smell of death and burnt flesh was in the air. This I will never forget, a thousand people lined up—no one knew who had lived and who had died—with little signs: Have you seen my mother, Mary? Have you seen my son, Bill?

That stays with me.

I remember the generosity of New Yorkers. A man who owned a shoe store just north of the Towers gave out free shoes to everybody who was fleeing. Many of them had lost their shoes in the long trek down the stairs.

I remember the valor of the first responders who rushed to the Towers. I remember a firefighter from Staten Island, based in Brooklyn, who went to his firehouse, put his full gear on, and ran through the tunnel with about 60, 70 pounds of gear on. It was his day off, but he knew he was called. He went up the stairs of the World Trade Center and was crushed when the Twin Towers collapsed. So there is a lot.

Another way I think of this every day, as I am sure you have noticed, is that I always wear this flag on my lapel. I called on Americans to wear the flag the day after my having witnessed the site, and I have worn this flag every day since. Every time I look at it, I think of those who were lost, and I think of the valor of New Yorkers and of the American people.

For the first responders, this 9/11 carries additional significance. A few months ago, some of the heroes that day were here in Washington to celebrate the permanent reauthorization of the Victim Compensation Fund. I thank the first responders who came to Washington and helped to secure this funding, especially those who are no longer with us—James Zadroga, Luis Alvarez, my friend Ray Pfeifer. Wherever they are, I hope they are looking down with the knowledge that their brothers and sisters are being taken care of.

God bless those good heroes. May God continue to bless this resilient Nation.

Later this morning, I will return to the floor with the Republican leader and my colleagues as we will respect a moment of silence in memory of September 11.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a different subject, I return this morning to the topic of appropriations.

We have until the end of this work period to figure out a way to continue government funding, and there is good talk of a short-term continuing resolution so the government doesn't run out of money on September 30. Yet the larger question is how this Chamber is going to proceed or not proceed with the 12 appropriations bills that fund our government.

Despite many disagreements between the majority and minority in this Chamber, the Senate has been able to produce several bipartisan budget deals even in the Trump era. The reason we have been able to do this is that both parties have been committed to working together throughout each stage of the appropriations process. Bipartisanship—appropriations can only work with it and will not work without it.

Earlier this summer, the Democrats and the Republicans negotiated the broad outlines of a budget deal in good faith. We allocated the 302(a)s and came up with a side agreement. After that, the very first step in the appropriations process is to agree, in a bipartisan way, with the allocations for the 12 subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee. That is what we did in 2018, and I believe it passed the committee unanimously—or maybe with one dissenting vote. It was passed unanimously on a bipartisan basis. The Appropriations Committee passed those 302(b) allocations 31 to 0. That is how we thought it was going to work now, but already we are running into trouble with those allocations this time around.

The Republican majority on the Appropriations Committee has unilaterally proposed putting in an additional \$12 billion for the President's border wall, taking away \$5 billion of funding for Health and Human Services—desperately needed programs like healthcare and fighting opioid addiction and cancer research—and putting it into the wall. This is without our OK, without our acknowledgment, and without our acceptance. The Republican majority also reprogrammed funding from other sources and backfilled money the President proposes to pilfer for military construction, which has affected, I believe, 30 States.

My Republican colleagues and my friend the Republican leader know very well this will not fly with Senate Democrats. We are not going to vote for a budget that is partisan and is attempting to be jammed down our throats. It puts an additional \$12 billion into the wall? Forget that. So here