

along to his wife and two children. Each one of these officers and firefighters we lost this year was a neighbor or loved one, a member of the community, and an extraordinary Coloradan who gave their life to protect their communities. While we remember those whom we lost this year, we must also continue to celebrate those who continue to serve today.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER MICHAEL LOHMAN

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, in August, I was fortunate to award Officer Michael Lohman of the Greeley Police Department with the Congressional Badge of Bravery for his heroic actions apprehending the driver of a stolen vehicle in 2017.

While at the driver-side window of the vehicle, the driver pulled a gun on Officer Lohman, who immediately engaged with the driver to take the weapon. The driver pulled Officer Lohman into the vehicle and began accelerating, dragging him along the street. Officer Lohman kept his cool and was able to pull the suspect from the vehicle while it was still moving and apprehended him with the help of other officers.

These actions saved the lives of anyone in the path of that vehicle, as well as the life of his partner who was at the passenger side of the vehicle when the gun was pulled. These actions give our communities peace of mind, knowing that heroes like Officer Lohman continue to keep all of us safe. But we know every brave action doesn't get the recognition that it deserves.

Every day, there are law enforcement and first responders who act with complete selflessness. They do this not to seek recognition or praise, but simply because it is what they were called to do.

Jamie and I would like to send our thanks to the families of our law enforcement and first responders. Every day these men and women say goodbye to their loved ones, unsure of what that day will hold for them. I am sure these goodbyes are much more difficult during the holiday season, but without the love and support of those at home, the jobs of law enforcement and our first responders would be that much more difficult. We thank them for their continued sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, I would also like to take a moment to say thanks to the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. They work long hours to ensure that Members of the staff and Members themselves are able to carry out their duties safely. On top of that important duty, they also protect the public who comes to visit to express their opinion, to express their right to assemble and free speech in the Capitol and beyond, not only to tour this beautiful Capitol Building, but to make sure their thoughts are heard on our Nation's policy issues.

I know every one of my colleagues will join us in expressing our gratitude to law enforcement and first responders not only in Colorado, but across this Nation this holiday season. They will give up time with their own families to make sure that others are safe.

To all those who defend that thin blue line, thank you, and God bless. You have my enduring support. May you all have a happy and blessed holiday season.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ISAKSON

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, today I rise for the opportunity to commend Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON on his retirement from the U.S. Senate.

I am a relatively new Member to the Senate, but I think we all remember the first time we ever walked onto the Senate floor. I know I certainly do because that is the day I met Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON.

With both of us being from the South, I knew we would probably have a lot in common, a similar view on life, and a heart for the South, but it didn't take me long to learn that JOHNNY has a universal heart.

I am guilty of the expression, "Nothing is special until you make it special." JOHNNY has such a generous gift of making things special. He has the gift of making everyone around him feel special. His heart and his attitude sees the best in people and yet goes further to let them know how much they mean to him.

He exemplifies being a leader, an encourager, and an investor of people. He is never too busy to ask how you are doing or to ask about your family. Common courtesy sometimes isn't always that common anymore, but I assure you it is with JOHNNY ISAKSON.

His brilliance is unquestionable. His ability to articulate what is important to him is just simply amazing. He can deliver a message that not only expresses his concern but also has answers and solutions based on his experience and his tremendous wisdom.

He is the gentle calm in a tremendous storm. He has the words of wisdom when so many are bewildered. He is the guiding light in the darkest times. He provides the needed laugh in times of tension and the voice of reason in times of uncertainty. His love is deep, and his compassion is true.

He knows how to be a friend. He was a born leader and has the ability to capture opportunities and turn them into successes. My world has been enhanced and enriched by this wonderful and precious human being.

JOHNNY learned a long time ago that the joy of living comes in giving. You know when a person has in his heart that joy, that wasn't put there by the world.

When I think about the true statesmen I have met in my brief time in the Senate, I will certainly have "Georgia on My Mind."

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Florida.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise to speak again today about the crisis in Venezuela—a defining human rights issue of our time.

Nicolas Maduro is starving his own people, and innocent children are dying. It is a genocide right here in our hemisphere. Every day that passes, the situation in Venezuela grows more dire.

The United States and all freedom-loving countries around the world must do more. As Governor, I strictly prohibited the State of Florida, including all State agencies, from investing in any company that did business with Maduro's repressive regime.

I am grateful for the bipartisan support this bill has received, and I specifically thank Senator ROSEN for her leadership and for joining me in this effort.

We must never give up on the fight for freedom, and I look forward to all of my colleagues joining me in support of the people of Venezuela.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in Spanish.

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

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I stand with the people of Venezuela and will always fight for freedom and democracy in Latin America.

I understand my colleague has an objection. I am disappointed, but I look forward to working with him to address his concerns.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise to highlight several key parts of the appropriations package the Senate will be considering later on this week. First, I want to point out some statistics. Ninety-two thousand of our coal miners are counting on us to protect their pensions. Thirteen thousand coal miners are counting on us to protect their healthcare benefits. This week, we will have a chance to do just that.

I am very proud to have worked with our leader, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator MANCHIN, Senator PORTMAN, and others to introduce and champion the Bipartisan American Miners Act. I appreciate that my counterpart on the House side, Congressman DAVID MCKINLEY, has worked consistently and tirelessly on this bill in the House, along with our other Representatives from West Virginia, ALEX MOONEY and CAROL MILLER. Most of all, I appreciate the West Virginian miners and their families who have traveled to Washington to advocate for their promised benefits and for their communities. I