

Risch	Scott (FL)	Udall
Romney	Scott (SC)	Van Hollen
Rosen	Shaheen	Warner
Rounds	Sinema	Whitehouse
Sasse	Smith	Wyden
Schatz	Stabenow	
Schumer	Tester	

NOT VOTING—12

Booker	Cruz	Sanders
Capito	Harris	Shelby
Cassidy	Hawley	Toomey
Cotton	Markey	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 15, the nays are 73.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

REMEMBERING JOHN ROBERT MILLER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a brave Kentucky veteran who passed away last month at the age of 96. John Robert Miller, of Glasgow, KY, led a remarkable life of generous service and lasting achievement. As a member of the "greatest generation," John Robert defended our Nation and its ideals before coming home to raise a family and lead his community.

Like many brave Kentuckians, John Robert volunteered to serve our country during the Second World War. Over the coming years in the Army Artillery, he achieved the rank of technical sergeant and was stationed for 3 years in the South Pacific. For the rest of his life, his pride in our Nation and his military service were well known to all.

John Robert returned to Barren County after the war and married Christine McGuire, his inseparable partner for the next 67 years. Together they built a proud life. He turned to agriculture, owning a dairy farm while also growing several crops and raising angus cattle. His love for the land inspired John Robert to share his knowledge with the next generation of Ken-

tucky farmers through 4-H. An active mentor and guide, he was elected State chairman of the Kentucky 4-H Leadership Council.

John Robert seemed to be constantly thinking of how he could help others. In addition to his farm and a small business he owned, he was elected to the Barren County Fiscal Court. With the strong support of those he served, John Robert was twice reelected. As a local election commissioner for more than two decades, he also earned admiration and the lasting gratitude of his community. He received multiple awards in recognition of his life of service for others, including the Barren County Patriot Award.

I would like to share my heartfelt condolences with John Robert's children, Johnny, Lanny, and Donnie. Their father, John Robert, contributed to our Commonwealth's bright future. Through his hard work, his faith, and his refusal to quit, he left behind a legacy to be proud of. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring a treasured Kentuckian, John Robert Miller.

WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, on International Women's Day, we celebrated women and girls around the globe for their tremendous contributions to our communities, our countries, and the world. From Albania to Zimbabwe, women face enormous risks to pursue progress in defiance of attitudes, policies, and actions that treat them as second-class citizens. Too often, these women are punished for their courage. As this year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Beijing Declaration on the equal rights of women, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving women's empowerment and equal status throughout the world.

Today, I want to highlight 25 women who have risked their lives, withstood torture, and been unjustly detained for fighting for human rights, democracy, a free and fair press, and the rights of vulnerable LGBT populations, as well as safeguarding their culture and the environment. The repressive responses of their respective governments speaks to the power these women command, the implications of their cause, and the movements they inspire.

In Russia, President Putin's government utilizes politically motivated imprisonment to bolster its power by cracking down on journalists, human rights advocates, religious minorities, Ukrainian citizens, and civil society advocates. Yulia Tsetkova is the latest target of the authorities' long-running campaign against LGBT activists. Tsetkova has been placed on house arrest and faces years of imprisonment for her creative work at a youth amateur theater which the state has labeled "homosexual propaganda," for drawings described as criminal "pornography" and for administering two

LGBT-themed groups on social media deemed "gay propaganda.")

The Chinese Communist Party has waged a powerful campaign to suppress vibrant ethnic minority communities and political dissent. The government has brutally cracked down in Xinjiang, where it has extrajudicially interned and subjected more than 1 million Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities to forced labor, torture, and abuse. Rahile Dawut, a Xinjiang University professor who researched and documented traditional Uyghur culture, disappeared in December 2017. Sanubar Tursun, a renowned Uyghur singer, disappeared in November 2018, shortly before she was scheduled to perform in France. We will not forget their names nor their work.

The Chinese Communist party has also targeted Tibetans for celebrating their heritage. In late 2015, officials detained at least eight Tibetans accused of organizing observances of the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday. Those detained included Bonkho Kyi, who had organized a public picnic to celebrate the occasion. Kyi was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment, although details of the criminal charges remain unavailable.

In Iran, human rights defenders have been steadfast in their advocacy despite repeated arrest and abuse by authorities. Nasrin Sotoudeh has devoted her life to advocating for human rights in Iran, speaking out against the death penalty and laws forcing women to wear hijabs. Sotoudeh was rearrested in June 2018 for defending women protestors against the forced hijab and faces 38 years in prison and 148 lashes. Atena Daemi, also a lifelong human rights activist, is serving a 7-year prison sentence for handing out anti-death penalty leaflets. She has been on hunger strike twice and is in dire need of medical attention due to dizziness and numbness. Narges Mohammadi, vice president of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders in Iran, has been imprisoned since May 2015 and is serving a 16-year sentence. Mohammadi is critically ill with pulmonary embolism and a neurological disorder resulting in seizures and temporary partial paralysis.

Iranian authorities have also recently arrested and imprisoned environmentalists. Niloufar Bayani, a McGill University-graduate, worked for the United Nations Environment Programme and, most recently, the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation. She was arrested along with several co-workers, including Sepideh Kashami, on charges of espionage. Multiple government bodies have found no evidence suggesting the environmentalists detained were spies. While detained, Bayani has reportedly suffered from torture and threats of sexual assault.

Governments around the world are also attacking the free press and targeting journalists, particularly those who speak truth to power and expose the failures of those very governments.