

Tragically, the Chinese Communist Party responded with ruthless force, killing demonstrators and bystanders. Troops with assault rifles and tanks fired at demonstrators and those trying to block the military's advance into Tiananmen Square. Several hundred to several thousand people were killed that day.

China has been ruled by a brutal, authoritarian regime, a communist regime, since 1949.

This regime has not changed its nature, and we see that today in the South China Sea, Hong Kong, against Taiwan, and in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

REMEMBERING ITALIA MARIE KELLY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Sunday, a young Iowan from Davenport set out to exercise her constitutional rights by peacefully protesting the disturbing death of George Floyd. But when agitators turned things violent, Italia Marie Kelly decided it was time to go. As she was trying to leave, she was struck and killed by a bullet. She was only 22.

Italia was protesting against violence, but she couldn't escape it.

We must stand up against violence, racism and abuses by law enforcement. We must also stand up against those who hijack peaceful protests. More death and destruction is no way to honor the legacies of those lost.

REMEMBERING JEANNETTE PRIEBE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am sorry to note the passing of Jeannette Priebe, a longtime friend and an instrumental part of my team when I was Jefferson County judge-executive. Jeannette was a skilled public servant, animated with a fierce spirit for our work. Today, I would like to pay tribute to her life and her many contributions to our Commonwealth.

Jeannette's work embodied President Reagan's notion that "personnel is policy." A great deal of her career was dedicated to putting the right individuals into positions of consequence, regardless of political affiliation. Jeannette became the first female personnel director of the Louisville Civil Service Board and later ran Jefferson County's personnel office. Her unyielding diligence made local government more effective for the families we served.

Take, for example, Jeannette's transformative impact on the city's police force. To address a serious under-representation of African Americans in the department, she intentionally placed a strong emphasis on giving qualified, minority candidates a fair shot. She helped create a police force that was more representative of the community it protected.

Jeannette joined my team when I was the newly elected Republican judge

surrounded on all sides by skeptical Democrats. Almost everything we did brought an uphill climb. As a result, my staff and I developed a deep bond and a collective sense of purpose.

In professionalizing the personnel office, Jeannette never let the bureaucracy slow her down. She did away with political patronage, insisting on merit in the county's policymakers. She knew the rules governing her position and used them to shake the malaise off local government. If I told Jeannette where I wanted to end up on a particular policy, she could chart the course to get there. She was absolutely critical to our accomplishments for the people of Jefferson County.

There is perhaps no better example than the hiring of Norma Fletcher as the consumer protection division director. Norma might not have been the conventional choice among the stack of 60-plus resumes. She was a 26-year-old attorney who had only recently joined local government. In Jeannette's characteristic way, however, she saw Norma's initiative and drive. Norma got the job and would prove an invaluable asset to Jefferson County over the coming years in several important leadership roles. I am grateful that Jeannette recognized the potential of Norma and several other talented individuals who made our administration better as a result.

Jeannette's job came with many serious responsibilities. But she never took herself or her colleagues too seriously. She was quick to break the tension with a joke and a smile. Her deep reservoir of faith helped give us all strength, even on the most grueling days. I will warmly remember the times she invited me to her home for dinner. Jeannette was a wonderful cook, and I enjoyed the chance to spend time with her, her husband Victor, and their family.

Throughout my career, I have been lucky to work with some of the most capable and trustworthy staff around. Much of my early team was directly attributable to Jeannette's influence. After she left the county courthouse, I wasn't certain I would ever find another person quite like her. Then, about a decade ago, Jeannette's daughter Angie joined my staff. As my director of State operations, Angie has been tireless in helping me represent Kentucky in the Senate. She is so impressive in her own right and a wonderful reflection of her mother. I am grateful that brilliance happens to run in this particular family.

It was a sincere privilege to call Jeannette a friend for so many years. I am forever grateful for her impression on my life and on lives around Jefferson County. I join with her family in remembering this remarkable Kentuckian.

PROTESTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Monday I watched the shameful scene a

block from the White House as the President of the United States ordered U.S. Park Police, backed by the D.C. National Guard and following threats throughout the day, to use the U.S. military against peaceful American protesters so he could have his photograph taken in front of St. John's Church, holding a Bible. It was an appalling, almost surreal, abuse of power that showed a flagrant disregard not only for our Constitution but for those who have devoted their lives to defend it.

Several of those patriots have spoken out forcefully and eloquently to reject the President's grotesque display of force and the way he has abused the Office of the Presidency, day after day, year after year, to stoke divisions in this country. I am grateful to them for doing so, and I want to highlight in particular two of those voices, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, and former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis. In pieces, one published in the Atlantic and one released as a statement, both laid out an alternate vision for our country, a vision that so many Americans who were similarly outraged share and that I also share.

I ask unanimous consent that these statements from Admiral Mullen and former Defense Secretary Mattis, be inserted in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Atlantic, June 2, 2020]

I CANNOT REMAIN SILENT: OUR FELLOW CITIZENS ARE NOT THE ENEMY, AND MUST NEVER BECOME SO

(By Mike Mullen)

It sickened me yesterday to see security personnel—including members of the National Guard—forcibly and violently clear a path through Lafayette Square to accommodate the president's visit outside St. John's Church. I have to date been reticent to speak out on issues surrounding President Trump's leadership, but we are at an inflection point, and the events of the past few weeks have made it impossible to remain silent.

Whatever Trump's goal in conducting his visit, he laid bare his disdain for the rights of peaceful protest in this country, gave succor to the leaders of other countries who take comfort in our domestic strife, and risked further politicizing the men and women of our armed forces.

There was little good in the stunt.

While no one should ever condone the violence, vandalism, and looting that has exploded across our city streets, neither should anyone lose sight of the larger and deeper concerns about institutional racism that have ignited this rage.

As a white man, I cannot claim perfect understanding of the fear and anger that African Americans feel today. But as someone who has been around for a while, I know enough—and I've seen enough—to understand that those feelings are real and that they are all too painfully founded.

We must, as citizens, address head-on the issue of police brutality and sustained injustices against the African American community. We must, as citizens, support and defend the right—indeed, the solemn obligation—to peacefully assemble and to be heard. These are not mutually exclusive pursuits.