

In another example of FAA inaction, Congress required the FAA and the National Park Service to develop air tour management plans for our national parks under the Air Tour Management Act of 2000. For two decades, inter-agency fighting prevented any progress from being made. In 2018, the Hawaii Island Malama Pono Coalition and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, groups representing national park employees and visitors, filed a petition in Federal court to compel the agencies to regulate air tours at seven parks.

On May 1, 2020, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ordered the FAA and the National Park Service to develop air tour management plans for 23 national parks, including Haleakala National Park and Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii. The court found that the agencies' efforts were "underwhelming," "ultimately unsuccessful," and failed to develop the plans in a reasonable amount of time.

The court expects the agencies to develop the air tour management plans for all 23 parks within 2 years, and the court will retain jurisdiction to continue oversight until the agencies have completed the plans.

Volcanoes National Park was the subject of 8,333 air tour flights in 2018, over 22 flights per day, the highest number of air tour flights of any national park. Haleakala had the fourth most air tour flights in 2018, with 4,757 flights. The residents in the surrounding communities in the flight path and visitors trying to enjoy the quiet of nature are all too aware of the visual and the noise from air tour flights.

With the decision by the Court, many in Hawaii now expect action in the development of air tour management plans for Hawaii's two national parks.

Of course, air tours affect residents and communities in Hawaii throughout the State. On January 9 of this year, members of the Hawaii Helicopter Association, Hawaii Department of Transportation's Airports Division, appointees from the State legislature, and other stakeholders formed the Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force with representatives from the FAA as technical advisers. The task force was created to "fund public meetings, produce a study and make recommendations concerning the helicopter and fixed wing tour industry."

It remains clear to me that the FAA needs to address its failure to oversee the air tour industry. On January 31, Senator SCHATZ and I joined in the Senate Commerce Committee's request for an investigation by the inspector general of the Department of Transportation into allegations that the FAA's Honolulu Flight Standards District Office ignored serious concerns about the safety of helicopter air tours in Hawaii. We requested an investigation into the oversight lapses raised by the whistleblowers. The ongoing investigation by

the inspector general will show whether FAA is able to enforce its own rules in Hawaii.

What remains clear is that the NTSB has recommended additional standards to the FAA to improve safety throughout the country, but the FAA has not addressed these safety issues. We have waited long enough for action.

The legislation we are introducing will strengthen the rules to ensure accountability and safety for Hawaii's aviation operators and travelers.

#### FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLESTON CHURCH SHOOTING

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, 5 years have passed, and it still feels like a bad dream, but we know it actually happened. The senseless murder of nine parishioners at Mother Emanuel hit South Carolina like a ton of bricks. It remains hard to understand how anyone could have so much hate in their heart. To be welcomed into a church, worship with the parishioners, and then turn around and shoot them in cold blood remains one of the most horrific acts ever recorded.

Then just days after this horrible tragedy, the people at Mother Emanuel showed a level of love and forgiveness that was truly unimaginable. It was an act that is rarely seen. I personally cannot imagine turning to the person who killed my family members saying, I forgive you. I know that type of grace can only come from God. Of all the things that I have seen in public life, the words from the family members continue to amaze me to this day. You must truly have the love of the Lord in your heart to be able to muster that kind of forgiveness.

On the 5-year anniversary, we think of those who lost their lives and the families left behind, the Christmases without loved ones, the birthdays missed. Our hearts are still broken, and our prayers remain with the parishioners at Mother Emanuel.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. AMY ACTON

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my appreciation for a great Ohioan and public servant, Dr. Amy Acton, for her leadership and expertise while serving as the director of the Ohio Department of Health.

Born and raised in Youngstown, OH, Dr. Acton knew she wanted to be a doctor from a young age. She attended Northeastern Ohio University School of Medicine, studying pediatrics and preventive medicine. Dr. Acton continued her education, earning a master's degree in public health from the Ohio State University, where she went on to teach as an associate professor.

In 2019, Governor Mike DeWine appointed her to lead our State's health department, the first woman to hold the position in Ohio's history.

That job is always critical, public health is one of the most important jobs our government does, and until a few months ago, it was too often underappreciated. But 17 months ago, few could have predicted just how vital Dr. Acton's role would be, as she stepped up to lead Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 22, 2020, while much of the Nation was still in denial about the quickly evolving pandemic, Dr. Acton led the charge and issued a statewide stay at home order, making Ohio one of the first States to do so. Understanding that the best leaders are open and honest, Dr. Acton participated in the Governor's daily press conferences. She answered questions and helped explain the threat of COVID-19 and the actions her department was taking to keep Ohioans safe through clever analogies, from brewing storms to Swiss cheese.

Throughout the spring, under Dr. Acton's leadership, Ohio continued to lead the country in taking bold action to slow COVID-19's spread. Dr. Acton's early intervention, supported by science and data, saved lives and significantly slowed the spread of the virus in Ohio.

Dr. Acton put the life and well-being of people over politics. She used empathy and honesty to educate, inform, and comfort Ohioans in uncertain times, exceeding the duties expected of her, to ensure the health and safety of her fellow Ohioans.

Thank you, Dr. Acton, for your wisdom, bravery, and compassion throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Your leadership saved countless lives in Ohio. I am sure my Senate colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Amy Acton for her exemplary efforts. ●

#### 2020 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES FROM UTAH

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor 14 exemplary young Utahns who have answered the call of service to our country.

Each year, Members of Congress are authorized to nominate a number of young men and women from their district or State to attend our Nation's service academies: the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy.

The men and women whom I nominated on behalf of the State of Utah this year are some of the best and brightest in our country.

Each of these students is of sound mind and body, which will serve them well in Colorado Springs, West Point, and Annapolis. But the journey on which these young men and women will soon embark demands more than strength of mind and strength of body. It demands strength of character. It requires qualities of leadership, courage, honesty, prudence, and self-discipline. It calls for a commitment to service and a love of country. And ultimately, it requires a willingness to give the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the safety and security of our Nation.