

Through the lens of recent tragedies—the police killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and, just this week, Rayshard Brooks—and the worldwide anti-racism protests they have sparked, this education is more important than ever. We are being called to connect the dots in our history and take action to bring about meaningful change, to save lives, and to right the wrongs of the past. We are being called, yet again, to answer in what ways are our constitutional promises still left unfulfilled for Black Americans?

Answering this question is essential to addressing police and criminal justice reform. From the establishment of deputized slave patrols in the American South, to the enforcement of segregation laws through the 1960s, to mass incarceration and disproportionate police violence in our present day, Black Americans have often faced systemic racism that the law either required or permitted. The same 13th Amendment that abolished slavery did so in all forms except incarceration, shrouding the institution in a new light and enabling the continued suppression of freedom and rights.

Today, Black Americans are still twice as likely to be killed by police as White Americans. And despite representing only 12 percent of the U.S. adult population, Black Americans make up 33 percent of the sentenced prison population. We have seen the brutal videos. We see the painful list of names of men and women killed at the hands of police brutality. We see the effects of this cyclical system on the health of our communities and families every day. We must act to stop it.

The roots of systemic racism in law enforcement were planted centuries ago and can be unraveled with targeted and conscious action. This is why I have been proud to work with my colleagues Senators BOOKER and HARRIS on crafting police reform legislation that works toward justice and systemic change, the Justice in Policing Act. This broader legislation includes two bills I have introduced for several years, the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act. The Justice in Policing Act would prohibit racial profiling, improve officer training, and hold officers accountable for the misconduct that keeps alive the culture has reinforced centuries of oppression. I hope the Senate can pass this bill. Equal treatment of individuals under the law must not be a partisan issue.

All Americans must recognize and celebrate Juneteenth so that we may face these harsh realities about our past and present and understand that the fight for freedom is ongoing. We cannot ignore our past, for it is with us here in the present in many forms. The wounds of our Nation will not heal until we identify and name their source and commit to doing the work in Congress and in our communities to mend them. Freedom has never been free, nor

has it ever come easily. Let us celebrate liberation by doing everything we can to fight for it for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DEL G. ATKINSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of U.S. Air National Guard CMSgt. Del G. Atkinson, who is retiring after almost 40 years of faithful service to our country.

Chief Atkinson entered Federal Active-Duty service in the U.S. Army in August 1982. He was stationed in Nuremburg, West Germany, with the 595th Military Police Company, First Armored Division “Old Ironsides” and the 101st Airborne Division “Screaming Eagles” with the 101st Military Police Company Fort Campbell, KY.

Upon completion of his Army service, he entered into the Air National Guard. During his lengthy career in the Guard, Chief Atkinson served a number of combat deployments, including Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Coronet Oak.

Chief Atkinson used his experience in the Army to launch a career in law enforcement, working as a member of the University of Arkansas Police Department and the Springdale, AR, Police Department.

Over the course of almost 36 years, his military service took him around the globe, and yet, whether it was in Arkansas, our Nation’s Capital, or overseas, he and I always seemed to be crossing paths.

A number of those occasions were more than just fortunate circumstances, as for a time, he was part of a team responsible for providing protection for aircraft transitioning between overseas airfields with inadequate security.

He often found himself assigned to Senate, congressional, and White House missions. I was privileged to have been onboard for some of those flights. My colleagues and I relied on Del and his teammates, for our protection as we traveled to some dangerous parts of the world.

On those trips, I remember looking back on his time in local law enforcement and thinking to myself how special it was that northwest Arkansas had extra representation onboard. Del and his colleagues took great care of us, each and every time, and for that, I will always be appreciative.

Chief Atkinson was promoted eight times during the course of his military career. He earned a number of prestigious awards and medals including a Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

His pride in our Nation and his fellow servicemembers is apparent, including with his service as a member of the

Liberty Jump Team, where he performed commemorative parachute jumps honoring veterans of wars and foreign conflicts. He joined the team because he “wanted to give back to the Greatest Generation” and honor how they “overcame all obstacles and persevered to win the victory on all fronts.”

I remain grateful for Del’s combat service to the Nation, dedication to keeping the UA campus and the community of Springdale safe during his law enforcement days, and commitment to keep alive the memory of those who sacrificed for our Nation. I wish him years of joy and happiness in retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, and treaties, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3985. A bill to improve and reform policing practices, accountability, and transparency.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4856. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of DFARS Clause ‘Notification of Anticipated Contract Termination or Reduction’” (RIN0750-AK56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4857. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Repeal of Annual Reporting Requirements to Congressional Defense Committees” (RIN0750-AK91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4858. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense,