

Joel once interviewed Bill Clinton on Air Force One and obviously interviewed many Presidents—both Bushes, Clinton, Obama.

He once was a Pulitzer Prize runner-up for his coverage of the Washington Public Power Supply System, and obviously he covered Hanford issues, which I just talked about many times, and many northern border issues.

He probably was best known in his coverage of Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus and wrote a book about him and the many fights that happened in the Northwest on land issues for many, many years.

So I can't even begin to explain what it will be like without Joel Connelly at the helm of political national commentary for us in the Pacific Northwest.

Nobody sharper. Nobody keener. Nobody more experienced. Nobody who struck more fear in me when I had to get on the phone with him because chances were he knew the issue even better than I did, and I had been pretty studied on it, but that is what you get after 47 years in journalism.

So I wish him all the best, but I also hope his retirement is a call for all of us to remember how important journalism really is; that the tool and trade of people who basically cover these policies, understand them, and help give commentary in their columns or in their journalism and oversight is what helps us keep our democracy here in the United States.

So, Joel, I know you will be up there on Whidbey Island and you will be watching us from afar. I know we are not done hearing the last of you, but I know we have heard a great commentary for 47 years of the P-I and your comments, and we greatly appreciate it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE
AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the United States, Mexico, and Canada launched a new chapter in our historic partnership with entry into force of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement—USMCA for short.

Thanks to the decisive leadership of President Trump, the USMCA will open the door for robust economic growth.

At the same time, regarding his decisive leadership as President, this isn't an issue just now. This is something the President said in 2016; that the NAFTA was the worst trade agreement that we have had, and he was going to get rid of it or revise it. Most Presidents run on a platform. They may not serve on that platform. This President is serving on that platform, and today the USMCA going into force for the first time is absolute proof of this President keeping his promises and getting the job done.

He also needs to compliment and thank Ambassador Lighthizer, the negotiator on this whole agreement.

The USMCA brings to bear, then, a trilateral trade agreement that will lift prosperity across North America. The USMCA paves the way for freer markets and fairer trade. It replaces NAFTA and puts America in a better position to expand market access for U.S. workers, farmers, and businesses.

Specifically, the USMCA modernizes rules of origin for autos, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, intellectual property rules, digital trade, financial services, customs, labor, environment, and more.

Some of these issues I just mentioned weren't even around 30 years ago when NAFTA was negotiated. Modernizing NAFTA into the 21st century was the right thing to do.

As we enter into this agreement, the world is navigating uncertain times, as we know. The unprecedented public health crisis has turned the economy upside down. Now, more than ever, our farmers, businesses, and workers need and deserve certainty that they can count on us to turn things around and accelerate economic recovery.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, with jurisdiction over trade, I will be keeping a close eye on the implementation of this historic trade agreement. I want to ensure that any kinks that come up are ironed out with appropriate flexibility, taking into consideration unforeseen circumstances from the pandemic, such as automakers and others who were shut down or repurposed operations to produce medical equipment, and that is just one example. I also will keep watch to hold accountable all stakeholders and ensure full compliance with the trade agreement.

Now more than ever, North America must work together to harvest the fruits of the USMCA. That is how we can foster investment, innovation, and job creation for the 478 million people who live in these 3 countries.

The U.S. International Trade Commission estimated that the USMCA within 5 years would raise U.S. GDP by \$68 billion, forecasting 176,000 new jobs in the United States. That is music to the ears for everyone in America who has been hard hit by the pandemic's economic fallout.

Farmers in my State have enjoyed one of the best planting seasons in decades. However, our livestock, poultry, and biofuels producers have faced catastrophic disruption to their operations since the virus swept across the country. Iowa is the Nation's No. 1 producer of pork, eggs, and corn. Our economy depends on exports to grow and for our economy to flourish.

American farmers depend on exports to pay their bills and earn a living. Farmers simply want to grow and produce for the marketplace, not for government bailouts.

Today's inauguration of the USMCA offers a bright ray of hope for North America to plow forward and to plant the seeds for a robust economic recovery.

With every trade issue that comes, it is always important to remember what President Kennedy said in his Presidency about trade legislation and the benefits of it—that if it benefits one country, it benefits the others. He said that “a rising tide lifts all boats.”

I am confident the USMCA will steer America's workers, farmers, and businesses to better days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

NATIONAL BORINQUENEERS DAY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor a very important group of people in our Nation's history. The 65th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army known as the Borinqueneers was comprised of U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico.

The Borinqueneers courageously fought for decades to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. They answered the Nation's call to serve, and they are the longest standing and only Active-Duty Latino military unit in U.S. history.

On April 13, 2016, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment in recognition of the Borinqueneers' numerous contributions to American history and outstanding military service from World War I to the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Today, I am honored to join my colleagues in recognizing the bravery, service, and sacrifice of the Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment and to express deep gratitude for the contributions to the Armed Forces that have been made by hundreds of thousands of patriotic U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico.

I am honored to designate April 13 as National Borinqueneers Day to ensure their legacy lives on. History will forever pay tribute to the sacrifices these individuals and their families made to defend our freedom.

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

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

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. It is my honor to recognize the service of these brave American citizens from Puerto Rico who fought for our Nation. Your legacy will live on. Thank you for your service.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 641, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 641) designating April 13, 2020, as “National Borinqueneers Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be

agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 641) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I yield the floor.

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. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded and to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, Americans are demanding an end to the persistent racial injustice and violence that inflicts our country.

Protestors have gathered outside of the White House and the Capitol. New Mexicans from our biggest city to our smallest communities are marching for meaningful change.

I have joined these protests in Emancipation Hall, in the streets of Washington, DC, and now I am joining them from the U.S. Senate floor.

The systemic racism being called out is real, and it is all around us all of the time. Within law enforcement, we have seen it in the horrific videos documenting the racist violence that took the lives of Black men and women at the hands of police officers and extrajudicial killers.

As a father raising two sons, my heart aches for the parents whose sons' and daughters' names we now chant loudly in the streets.

It is unacceptable for any American to live in fear of violent encounters when they enter public spaces or retail stores or just go out for a walk. The very fact that painful experiences with law enforcement are ubiquitous among so many in our Nation should be evidence enough that our current model of policing is not working. That is why I am proud to support my colleagues Senator BOOKER and Senator HARRIS to cosponsor the Justice in Policing Act.

This sweeping legislation reforms the police system as Americans across the country demand an end to police violence that is disproportionately targeting communities of color. It would address qualified immunity standards in Federal law which currently stand in the way of police officers being held accountable in court when they violate constitutional rights.

It would improve transparency in police departments by creating a national police misconduct registry, requiring accurate data reporting on misconduct and use-of-force incidents and ensuring problematic officers cannot avoid accountability by simply changing departments.

It would also institute a real national ban on choke holds and other deadly, restrictive airway holds. We have seen this use of lethal force kill George Floyd and Eric Garner before him and earlier this year, in Las Cruces, NM, when a police officer killed Antonio Valenzuela with a vascular neck restraint. While I hope that justice will be served for Mr. Floyd's and Mr. Valenzuela's families, I know that these men should never have died in the first place. This lethal and unnecessary type of force should not be allowed anywhere in America.

The Justice in Policing Act would put an end to the injudicious use of no-knock warrants that led to the murder of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, KY.

In order to prevent future extrajudicial killings like the murder of Ahmaud Arbery earlier this year by vigilantes in Georgia, the Justice in Policing Act would also finally designate lynching as a Federal crime.

The legislation would also make broad improvements in training for police officers. That includes implicit bias training to confront the prejudice that contributes to racial profiling and confrontational treatment of people of color.

We must also make deescalation and crisis intervention techniques standard operating procedures in encounters and make the use of lethal force the absolute last resort.

In my State, we have seen far too many incidents in which police have killed people of color with lethal tactics or responded to New Mexicans experiencing mental illness or addiction with unnecessary force that resulted in death. Nearly a decade ago, the Department of Justice began an investigation into the Albuquerque Police Department after numerous such fatal police encounters.

In 2014, the Department of Justice released its report that cited chronic abuses of civil rights, widespread community distrust, and a pattern of excessive force across the department. For these past 6 years, the Albuquerque Police Department has been under a federally enforced consent decree that has brought much needed changes in hiring, training, and use-of-force policies.

This ongoing process of changing just this one police department's culture is far from complete. Court hearings continue, and a federally appointed monitor continues to oversee the yearslong process of completing all of the reforms in the federally mandated, court-approved settlement agreement.

We have still seen multiple fatal police shootings each year since reforms began. That includes one case from just

this March in which the response to a welfare check on Valente Acosta-Bustillos, a man with documented behavioral health challenges, ended with officers fatally shooting him after he wielded a shovel that he had been using to do yard work.

This is not an isolated incident. The evidence is everywhere that systemic reform is needed for law enforcement, not just in Albuquerque but all across my State and all across this country.

Since the beginning of 2015, since the Nation reeled over the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, there have been more than 5,000—5,000—fatal police shootings. It pains me to say that in that time period, New Mexico has had the highest rate of these shootings in the entire country on a per capita basis.

While our overall nationwide statistics on deaths in police custody are incomplete—which is a problem in and of itself—the data we do have makes it clear that police in the United States are killing people at a rate much higher than our peer nations.

A review of media-reported, arrest-related deaths in the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that more than 1,300 people died in police custody in the 10 months from June 2015 to March 2016. During that same period, only 13 people in the United Kingdom died in or after being in police custody.

While we are a much larger country, even on a per capita basis, that means that Americans are being killed at a rate of approximately six times higher than in the UK. Many, if not most, of these deaths fall or are deemed "justified" by law enforcement, but I want to say in the strongest possible terms: We can't keep accepting a system that justifies this level of deadly violence.

The House of Representatives demonstrated last week that we can take action to address this system. Answering the calls of Americans all across our country, the House voted to pass the Justice in Policing Act. The Senate needs to do the same because no one should be above the law—no one, including those in law enforcement.

While I believe these last weeks and months of Americans calling for justice have changed many hearts and minds, I am not naive enough to believe the current administration is either willing or capable of bringing the level of change that Americans are demanding.

Unfortunately, in the last 3½ years, President Trump and his Justice Department have either turned a blind eye, excused, or even openly encouraged a more violent police culture.

Starting under Attorney General Jeff Sessions and certainly continuing under Attorney General Bill Barr today, this administration has spent much more time and Department of Justice resources aiding the President's own political battles and implementing even harsher penalties on Americans than on holding police departments accountable for guaranteeing equal justice under the law.