

the fact that he made the decision to allow others to be released before him—that is courage.

What does it say to our servicemembers when a Commander in Chief cancels a visit to an American cemetery in France because, according to one report, he feared his hair would be ruined by the rain? What does it say, as reported in *The Atlantic*, when he questions the value of paying his respects to fallen Americans by claiming servicemembers killed in the service of this country are “losers” and “suckers”? What does it say when he expressed his contempt for not just John McCain, who spent more than 5 years as a prisoner of war, but also accuses former President George H. W. Bush of being a “loser” for being shot down by the Japanese as a Navy pilot in World War II? Finally, what does it say to our troops when the President refuses to publicly condemn, warn, or even criticize Vladimir Putin following news reports that Russia offered bounties for the killing of members of our Armed Forces and our coalition partners?

Our servicemembers are always there for us, and we must be there for them. Even when our Nation is divided, we must still collectively reject any attempt to diminish their service.

We learned that in a big way after Vietnam. I remember standing at one of our Serving Our Troops events in Minnesota a few years ago. That is when our restaurants and the community come together—sometimes thousands of people—to serve the families of the troops who are serving overseas a steak dinner, all donated, and at the same time, the troops are somehow getting the same dinner. It is an extraordinary event. Many of us volunteer to work on the lines. One day when I was there, there was a Vietnam vet, and he was serving up mashed potatoes. He had a Vietnam hat on, and I said: Thank you for your service.

He said: When I came home, I was greeted with tomatoes. I don't want this to ever happen to another soldier again. That is why I come here every year to volunteer.

We learned back then that you can have major disagreements about war and war policy, but you do not take it out on the warriors on the frontline.

Sadly, right now, we have a Commander in Chief who takes out everything on everyone, including personal vendettas against people like Senator McCain. Rather than being silent as, sadly, too many have been in reaction to his comments, I think we must stand up. I think the way that we honor their service and sacrifice is being very clear that we condemn the remarks that the President has made.

I will end with this. The last time I saw Senator McCain I was at the ranch. He was in his last months of life. My husband and I went there and sat with Cindy and with John. At the very end, he was getting tired, and he wasn't talking much anymore. He was having trouble talking anyway. He

pointed at one of his books. I picked it up, and that is when he pointed, without saying the words, to that sentence: “There is nothing more liberating in life than fighting for a cause larger than yourself.” That is what unites our troops when they sign up to serve. That is what should unite us in this Chamber right now.

I urge my colleagues to join in this effort so that our men and women in uniform, across the United States and around the world, know that we will not remain silent.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking the Senator from Minnesota for her remarks just now.

I rise with her and to join Senator DUCKWORTH and our colleagues in responding to the shameful comments that President Trump reportedly made about our servicemembers.

I want to begin by thanking Senator DUCKWORTH for leading us in this effort and for her service to our country, as I thank all of the Members of the U.S. Senate and all of the staff of the U.S. Senate who have served their country and all of their families.

One of our Nation's greatest strengths is the countless Americans who, throughout our history, have been willing to sacrifice everything to keep us safe and preserve our freedom.

In New Hampshire, we are proud to be home to a high percentage of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. In my experience, people in my State—and all across the country—revere the bravery and sacrifices of those who serve and those who have served.

We may disagree about policy matters, including those that impact when and where servicemembers are deployed, but the respect that we have for servicemembers, veterans, and their families must be undisputed.

It is the President's duty to honor the sacrifices of our troops, to care for them, to support them and their fallen comrades. The role of the President of the United States of America is not just limited to being the Commander in Chief. Presidents should also lead by example and represent the values of the American people.

Unfortunately, President Trump has, yet again, expressed his disdain and lack of understanding of why people sacrifice for our freedom and democracy. This is a failure of leadership, and it is a failure of basic citizenship that is out of step with most Americans.

Last year, I joined a bipartisan group of Senators to travel to burial grounds in both France and Belgium, as we paid our respects to our World War II fallen servicemembers. It was the honor of a lifetime. It was also deeply personal, as my dad served in the Battle of the Bulge.

Standing on those hallowed grounds was a powerful reminder of the loss of

war, of those heroes who gave everything to fight against fascism and to protect freedom.

We owe these heroes our profound gratitude and our deepest respect. Yet, when speaking of servicemembers who were killed or captured, the President referred to these heroes as “suckers” and “losers.” For such words to come from the President of the United States is an affront to all that we stand for, and it is beneath the office that he holds. Unfortunately, these comments were not surprising given the President's long line of denigrating comments against those who have served, including the late Senator John McCain, Gold Star families, and other American heroes.

The resolution that we are introducing today recognizes the unmeasurable debt that we owe to those who have valiantly served our country, as well as their families. This resolution condemns the repeated disrespect that this President has bestowed upon them. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle have seen the hurtful comments President Trump has made about members of our military. Every single one of us should condemn them.

I will close with this: My father didn't talk about his service in World War II very often, but he did talk about his unit, a group of men who came from as diverse backgrounds as our country is large. They had their disagreements. They didn't agree on politics. But they came together every day to win that war.

Of course, they knew that their lives depended on their unity, their cohesion, but they knew something else too, and this is what my dad always reminded us of. Sometimes, at the breakfast table, he would look up at us and say: “What are you doing for freedom today?” It was a question he had the right to ask because he was remembering his unit of men from all over the country, from all different life experiences, who knew that freedom, their country—our country—the United States of America, is worth fighting for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, the day before we will be voting on a piece of legislation to deal with relief for people, for a country, dealing with coronavirus. I come to the floor today as Americans are looking to us, the U.S. Senate, to provide relief in this ongoing battle against this disease.

Republicans, as you well know, are offering a path forward. That is what the American people want. They want a path forward. So tomorrow, the Senate Republicans will move a targeted bill, a bill to help people get back to work, to help kids get back to school, and to deal with and put the disease in the rearview mirror.

It is interesting, in watching all of the things that unfold in the U.S. Senate and in the Chamber, that Democrats continue to be playing political games. The Democratic leaders in the House, as well as the Senate, have held up this round of coronavirus relief just as they held up the last round of coronavirus relief.

You say: Where is the roadblock? Well, I will tell you. Senator SCHUMER and Speaker PELOSI have been the roadblocks to relief for the American public. The Speaker has demanded a multi-trillion-dollar blank check to pursue her liberal agenda. It is a liberal wish list, no strings attached. You can go through all of the things that she has asked for. Even the New York Times said it was a liberal wish list, and that is the New York Times realizing that it wasn't a serious piece of legislation.

Yet, just last week, when Speaker PELOSI was asked about it and all of the things that are in it, she said: "We're not budging." Her statement: "We're not budging."

At the same time, as you look at what is happening in the country, Presidential nominee Joe Biden seems to be, ever so slowly, coming out of his hiding place in the basement. His answer to coronavirus, when the press asked him about this a week or so ago when he just edged out of the basement just a little bit, he said he would shut down the entire country again.

That is not what they want in Wyoming. That is not what they want in your State, Mr. Presiding Officer. That would be a recipe for disaster. But that is what the former Vice President, the nominee of the Democrat Party, has said he would do: shut down the country again. We have seen, time and time again, Democrat leaders shrink in the face of adversity. Republicans are facing challenges head-on.

It was interesting that, a couple of weeks ago during the Democrat convention, Joe Biden didn't even mention the violence that was plaguing Democrat-run cities all across the country. Not a single one of the Democrat speakers at their convention mentioned the destruction and the looting and the rioting and the violence. Democrat mayors, Democrat Governors, through their words and their actions, are encouraging these riots that are destroying our cities. They have surrendered to the leftwing mob, and, as a result, violent anarchists rule the streets in a number of the cities run by liberal mayors.

In Portland, OR, police officers have been viciously attacked for 100 days. Innocent people have been murdered in cold blood. We have seen small businesses looted, torched—a lifetime of work up in flames.

Democrat mayors are tying the hands of law enforcement, it appears to me, and liberal city officials are defunding the police, calling to defund the police, voting to defund the police. Clearly, they have refused to allow the

police to do their job. It is an incredibly dangerous situation, and it is a complete lack of leadership by Democrats.

Republicans would defend, not defund, the police. The burning, the looting, the rioting—this must stop. People are fleeing the liberal cities, and they want to move to States like ours. Even some Democrat mayors are fleeing their own homes. Portland's mayor is moving out of his condo building to escape the riots. St. Louis's mayor has temporarily relocated from her home, and the mayor of Chicago, interestingly enough, has banned protests on her block while doing nothing to protect the rest of the city, where the number of fatalities and where violence and murder are breaking records at an alltime high.

People expect their elected leaders to keep them safe, but, really, the Democrats need to get their priorities right. They don't have them right. Americans need safety and security so they can get back to a normal routine in their lives.

There really is some good news to report, and that is both with regard to coronavirus and with regard to the economy. Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that coronavirus is starting to retreat, that positivity rates fell 40 percent from July, that hospitalizations were down 60 percent, and the good news is that researchers are reporting that they are on track to produce a safe, effective vaccine in record time.

As a doctor, I will tell you this truly is record time when I think of how long it took—years and years—for vaccines to be developed. Now, we are not out of the woods yet, but we are making significant progress and moving ahead at warp speed.

That is one of the things that is going to be on the floor tomorrow with this vote, as we work to get people back to work and kids back to school and the virus behind us, is more money and effort for testing and for treatment and for vaccine development and distribution.

The economic news is good. Joe Biden says he would shut down the country again, and this country is opening up and doing remarkably well. The economy added nearly 1.4 million jobs in August alone, 10 million new jobs in the last 4 months. The unemployment rate fell to below 9 percent—8.4 percent. That is down from a pandemic high of close to 15 percent.

It is interesting. The experts had it all wrong. The experts said that, heading into the fall, we would have an unemployment rate at over 16 percent. It is now down to 8.4. I compare this to the economic recovery that took so long when President Obama and Vice President Biden were running the economy. We had an unemployment rate of over 9 percent for 30 months in a row—over 9 percent for over 30 months. This time, with the unemployment rate, we are already below 9 percent at 8.4.

So the economy is rebounding, the virus is receding, but still there is hardship around the country, and that is why we will tomorrow vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate to deal with the needs of the American people; yet NANCY PELOSI and the Democrats in Congress remain focused on a different agenda, and I believe their misguided priorities will hurt, not help, Americans.

It is interesting, when I listen to the Speaker of the House, even over 100 Democrats wrote her and openly commented that they should be able to be allowed to vote on a targeted piece of legislation. She refused to listen to them.

But we were home for the last period, listening to folks all around my State and your State, and what did we hear them say? They said: We still need help with paycheck protection for our small businesses so they can continue to make payroll. NANCY PELOSI says no. CHUCK SCHUMER says no.

They said: We want to get our kids back to school so we can go back to work and our kids will not fall so far behind. NANCY PELOSI has said no. My concern is that, tomorrow, CHUCK SCHUMER will say no as well.

People at home said: We need a vaccine. We need more testing. We need treatments. It sounds like, tomorrow, the Democrats may say no to that as well.

I look at the list of the things that the Democrats are proposing: more money for sanctuary cities, direct payment checks to illegal immigrants, issues relating to immigration and customs enforcement. That is just the tip of the iceberg. At the same time, with their misplaced priorities, they are blocking justice reform. They did that to the TIM SCOTT justice reform bill that every one of the Republicans cosponsored. They blocked it and refused to even allow it to come to the floor for discussion. They are ignoring crime.

Clearly, the leftwing of the Democratic Party has taken the wheel and has taken a sharp left turn and is headed right off a cliff.

The Democrats' misguided priorities lie in stark contrast with Republicans' forward-looking plan. We have targeted coronavirus relief. It is a bill that will help our students, will help our workers, will help our families, will help people with the disease.

The Senate legislation sensibly extends small business paycheck protection support to help keep people on the payroll. It ensures that we beat the disease with the money that we have talked about. It gives the schools the tools they need and continue to need to reopen smartly and safely so our kids will not be left behind.

I come to the floor to say the contrast is clear. What we are hearing from the opposite side of the aisle are empty Democrat promises, and Republicans are delivering on ours. Senate Republicans are going to stay focused on governing. We are going to do the

job the American people elected us to do.

The choice could not be clearer: Republicans on a path forward or Democrats with their ongoing partisan obstruction.

I appreciate your time and your attention in this critical time as we move forward with the bill that the American public is asking us to pass, that we have Republicans supporting, that fills the needs and responds directly to the needs of the American people. At the same time tomorrow, we will see if the Democrats continue to obstruct or work with us on the solution and a path forward for our Nation. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit with Colorado families and businesses across the four corners of our great State, talking about the challenges that Colorado faces when it comes to our economy as a result of the pandemic, talking about the health challenges that have been created for our State and so many of us around the world when it comes to the pandemic and the work that needs to be done and the work that this Congress needs to do to come together to stop the partisanship, to stop the fighting, to stop the arguing, and actually develop real solutions for the people of this country.

Congress has done that time and time again over the past several months. If you go back to March 6, the passage of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Act, that was signed into law that day. That is the first action that this Chamber took when it came to coronavirus response. March 18, a couple of weeks later, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. That was signed into law March 18. These were unanimous consent bills—many times unanimous consent, but had the support of every Republican and every Democrat. The work we were doing was so evident, and we needed to do it immediately.

March 27, as economies were shutting down, as restaurants were closing, as hotels were closing, Congress passed the CARES Act—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. It was signed into law on March 27. This is when you started to see some of the partisanship that was developing as that bill's passage was delayed in the Senate. Nonetheless, it passed, delivering trillions of dollars in support for the American people, support for unemployment benefits—creating new categories of help for people who had seen their jobs eliminated, furloughed, or hours reduced—support for farmers and ranchers, support for a vaccine, support for education, mass transit, telemedicine, and beyond—trillions of dollars, almost a year's worth of appropriations, a year's worth of funding in

one bill, to help make sure that we were meeting the needs of the American people.

The actions that we take can be focused, at least the way I see it, through three primary lenses: No. 1, what we were doing to make sure we are stopping the spread and flattening the curve of coronavirus; No. 2, making sure that we are helping individuals who are in need, who are worried about how they are going to meet their rent payments, how they are going to make their mortgage, making sure that they are going to be OK.

The third filter, the third lens of actions that we need to take is to go back to our businesses and making sure they are able to keep people employed, making sure they keep their doors open, making sure that our economy can snap back to its full strength and even stronger than ever once the health pandemic is over.

We passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act on April 24 to provide additional dollars for the Paycheck Protection Program. We passed legislation that would extend the Paycheck Protection Program into August, which changed the way some of the payments are able to be made within that time and what expenses could be utilized within that timeframe.

We passed the Great American Outdoors Act, which will create thousands of jobs across the State of Colorado—100,000 jobs across this country.

We continue to do more work. There is no alpha and omega legislation when it comes to a coronavirus. There is no one single package of legislation that we can walk away from, spike the football and say: Our job is done here.

We passed one bill, two bills, three bills, four bills—and we will continue to do more because the American people need it, and the American people need that support.

I met with a restaurant owner in Pueblo, CO, who talked about the restrictions they are facing at their restaurant. They can have only 50 people in their restaurant regardless of social distancing. They can have only 50 people in their restaurant. They have a bar in their restaurant, but because they are a restaurant, they can have only 50 people. The bar down the road can have 100 people in it because they are a bar, but the restaurant can have only 50 people because they are a restaurant, even though they have a bar. They are trying to figure out and understand the regulations, the guidance they are under, making sure their customers are safe, making sure their employees can be paid, making sure they survive this and get through this.

This is what the Paycheck Protection Program represents. That is what the help we passed with unemployment benefits means. It is to help people get through this so that we can get back on our feet as a country. I met with farmers in Eastern Colorado who were struggling to find help, who couldn't

find the labor that they needed, who saw challenges to their prices before coronavirus. They saw challenges because of coronavirus to their supply chains and what was happening to the markets. The CARES Act provided aid and relief to many in agriculture across the State of Colorado, but there is more work to be done.

I met with schools across the State of Colorado that are trying to open, that are trying to figure out the best way to keep their students safe and their teachers safe and make sure they can stay open. Some were doing online learning; some were doing in-person learning. All of them were trying to figure it out.

The CARES Act and other pieces of legislation we passed provided billions of dollars for our educational institutions from kindergarten to 12th grade on up through higher education—billions and billions of dollars—but more work needs to be done.

My wife turned to me a couple of weeks ago before our three children started school and said: It is time for spring break to end. Our kids have been out since spring break in March. A week ago, they did start, but there are people and families across the State of Colorado who are unsure about whether their classes will continue in person. Maybe they never got that far.

We have to make sure we are providing help with childcare, making sure families have a place where they can take their kids when they go to work. In a country where more and more families have both parents in the workplace, it is very difficult to continue that job and to do it effectively when you don't have childcare. We have all this supply problem where we don't have enough places for families to take their kids and we have a demand challenge where you have people who need to take their kids to daycare because their schools aren't open. The CARES Act and other legislation we passed addressed that need. There is more work yet to do.

I have heard from my colleagues across the aisle that they support the Paycheck Protection Program and that they support funding for businesses so that they can keep people employed, so that businesses can hire people and get them to return to work because we made a decision that it is better to have people on the job at the workplace than in the unemployment insurance office. We passed the Paycheck Protection Program. Look at these numbers in Colorado. We have a total loan amount of over \$10 billion that went to Colorado alone to help make sure that businesses were staying open, that they could keep people on the payroll, that they could survive the orders to shut down that came from mayors and the States and the President. We did it out of love for our community to make sure that we could stop the spread, flatten the curve, and get through this together. As a result, we have an obligation to make sure that