

walked boldly into their camp and greeted them in English. His name was Samoset. He had learned some broken English by working with English fishermen in the waters off what is now Maine. Samoset and the Pilgrims exchanged gifts, and he promised to return with another Indian, Squanto, who spoke fluent English.

Squanto's Tribe had been wiped out a few years earlier by an epidemic plague. He now lived among the Wampanoag Tribe in what is today Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The plague had also weakened the Wampanoags, though not neighboring rival Tribes. The Wampanoag chief, Massasoit, thus had good reason to form an alliance with the Pilgrims. Squanto introduced him to the settlers and facilitated their peace and mutual aid treaty, which lasted more than 50 years.

Squanto remained with the Pilgrims, acting, in Bradford's words, as "their interpreter" and "a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectations." He instructed them on the cultivation of native crops like corn, squash, and beans. He showed them where to fish and to hunt. He guided them on land and sea to new destinations.

And you probably remember what happened next. As the Pilgrims recovered and prospered throughout 1621, they received the blessings of a bountiful fall harvest. The Pilgrims entertained Massasoit and the Wampanoags and feasted with them to express their gratitude to their allies and to give thanks to God for His abundant gifts. This meal, of course, was the First Thanksgiving.

Now, the Thanksgiving season is upon us, and, once again, we have much to give thanks for. But this year we ought to be especially thankful for our ancestors, the Pilgrims, on their 400th anniversary. Their faith, their bravery, their wisdom places them in the American pantheon. Alongside the Patriots of 1776, the Pilgrims of 1620 deserve the honor of American Founders.

Sadly, however, there appear to be few commemorations, parades, or festivals to celebrate the Pilgrims this year, perhaps in part because revisionist charlatans of the radical left have lately claimed the previous year as America's true founding. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Pilgrims and their Compact, like the Founders and their Declaration, form the true foundation of America.

So count me in Coolidge's camp. On this anniversary a century ago, he proclaimed that "it is our duty and the duty of every true American to reassemble in spirit in the cabin of the *Mayflower*, rededicate ourselves to the Pilgrims' great work by re-signing and reaffirming the document that has made mankind of all the earth more glorious."

Some—too many—may have lost the civilizational self-confidence needed to celebrate the Pilgrims. Just today, for

instance, the New York Times called this story a "myth" and a "caricature" in the food section, no less. Maybe the politically correct editors of the debunked 1619 Project are now responsible for pumpkin pie recipes at the Times as well.

But I, for one, still have the pride and confidence of our forebears. So here, today, I speak in the spirit of that cabin, and I reaffirm that old Compact. As we head into the week of Thanksgiving, I will be giving thanks this year in particular to "our Pilgrim Fathers" and the timeless lessons they bequeathed to our great Nation. For as Coolidge observed, "Plymouth Rock does not mark a beginning or an end. It marks a revelation of that which is without beginning and without end."

May God continue to bless this land and may He bless the memory of the Pilgrims of 1620. I extend my best wishes to you and to your family for a Thanksgiving as happy and peaceful as the First Thanksgiving.

I yield the floor.

VOICE ON MIZELLE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mizelle nomination?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Braun	Collins
Blackburn	Burr	Cornyn
Blunt	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Cramer

Crapo	Lankford	Rounds
D Cruz	Lee	Rubio
Daines	Loeffler	Sasse
Enzi	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Ernst	McCally	Shelby
Fischer	Moran	Sullivan
Graham	Murkowski	Thune
Hawley	Paul	Tillis
Hoeven	Perdue	Toomey
Hyde-Smith	Portman	Wicker
Inhofe	Risch	Young
Johnson	Roberts	
Kennedy	Romney	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Harris	Udall
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gardner	Sanders	
Grassley	Scott (FL)	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maryland.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MAGNITSKY ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, earlier today, Senator WICKER and I participated in a call with our colleagues from Europe in regard to their efforts to pass a Global Magnitsky statute. I mention that because this month represents the 11th year anniversary of the tragic death of Sergei Magnitsky.

Sergei Magnitsky was a lawyer in Russia, representing a client when he discovered the largest tax fraud in modern Russian history—\$230 million. Many of the individuals who were involved in this corruption had ties with Russia's President, Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Magnitsky did what any lawyer is required to do, he reported the fraud that he discovered to the local authorities and asked for them to investigate the issue. Instead, Sergei Magnitsky was arrested. He was imprisoned without parole; he was beaten; he was tortured; and he died in jail without medical help in November of 2009.

There was no accountability for the perpetrators of this atrocity. In fact,

many of the perpetrators actually were promoted. We did something about it. As members of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, we recognized, in 1975, the countries that comprise the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including Russia, committed to basic human rights for their people, that their government would be honest, and that they would protect the rights of their citizens. The Helsinki Final Act gave every member state the right to question what other States were doing in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act ideals.

It is legitimate for us to question what Russia is doing in carrying out its commitment, so we did something about it. I introduced legislation known as the Magnitsky Act. I want you to know this was a bipartisan effort. My partner in the passage of the Magnitsky Act was the late Senator John McCain. My partner in passing the Global Magnitsky Act and the Magnitsky Act is my good friend ROGER WICKER, who is the chair of the Senate U.S. Helsinki Commission. We worked together to make sure that we passed these Magnitsky Acts.

What does it do? What it does is the country does not hold accountable those who violate basic global human rights of its citizens; we impose sanctions. Those sanctions prevent that individual who perpetrated these acts from visiting the United States through the issuance of a visa or participating in our banking system.

Why do we do this? Today, we heard from Mr. Kara-Murza, who is one of the activists on human rights in Russia who has been poisoned twice by the Russian Government. What he said about the mantra of the Kremlin is: They steal at home and spend abroad. They don't want their money in rubles; they want their money in dollars. So if we can prevent them from using our banking system, we can really make it hurt.

Let me tell you how important this is. It is not limited to Russia. We passed the Global Magnitsky law so it applies to all of the countries where they have violations of human rights.

If you want to know how important this statute is, it has been reported that when Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump met in their first summit, the first order of business that Mr. Putin raised with President Trump was: Can't we get rid of these Magnitsky sanctions? Believe me, they work. They deter bad actors around the world. It is a legislative initiative.

We talked today about the fact that there is one common ingredient in every country that has considered the Global Magnitsky laws; that is, the initiative that comes from the legislators. There is a natural reluctance among the bureaucrats not to burden themselves with additional problems in their bilateral relations with other countries, but we recognize that it is important for America, the leader of the democratic world, to speak up for

democratic principles. We passed the legislation. We didn't have the enthusiastic support of the administration, but we did it. We did it. And we wanted it to be a global standard that was clear to human rights violators, but we needed other countries to act.

I am pleased that other countries have followed the U.S. leadership. The UK, Canada, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania all have enacted similar Global Magnitsky bills. Currently, Japan and Australia are considering similar bills and legislation.

Today, we had a very positive conversation with the European Union, and they are considering the passage of a Global Magnitsky bill. This would add 27 countries to be covered under the Sergei Magnitsky law.

This is one of the, I think, leading moments for the U.S. Senate and Congress, where we showed leadership on behalf of speaking out for those otherwise who would not be heard. As a result of our action, I am convinced we saved many lives, and we made it clear that in our foreign policy, we will embed that in the principles that have made this Nation the great democratic Nation it is, the respect for universal human rights.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO ASYA BRANCH

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon, as I do, to commend an outstanding young American. In this case, a young Mississippian; namely, Miss Asya Branch, from Booneville, MS, who was recently crowned as Miss USA 2020.

For those of you from Michigan, take some pride. She was born in Michigan but moved to Mississippi at an early age and spent her childhood in Booneville, as I said. She graduated this year from my alma mater, the University of Mississippi, having studied broadcast journalism.

Miss Asya Branch has experienced dizzying success during the past 2 years. In 2018, Asya Branch won the title of Miss Mississippi under the Miss America Organization. The following year, she became the first African-American woman to win the other State title, Miss Mississippi USA. She is only the seventh person in history to hold both State titles: Miss Mississippi and Miss Mississippi USA. And now she is the first-ever Miss Mississippi USA to win the Miss USA crown.

Asya Branch has been competing in pageants since 2016, when she won her first preliminary title in the Miss Mis-

issippi competition. She went on to win Ole Miss's Parade of Beauties competition and numerous local titles. She has gained wide recognition because she is beautiful, well-spoken, and she is a gifted vocalist. But, also, there is a serious part of her platform and serious personal story of Asya's in overcoming adversity, and I admire that so much in Asya Branch. She speaks openly about her father's 10 years in the State prison, resulting in his absence for much of her upbringing. That difficult period shaped who Asya Branch is and gave her strength and a unique perspective on incarceration.

During the Mississippi pageant, Asya's platform was empowering children of incarcerated parents. Can you imagine the courage of a young woman taking that on as her platform? It enabled her to reach out to other children, encourage them that their lives do not have to be defined by their circumstances.

During her year as Miss Mississippi, she was part of a White House roundtable, where she discussed criminal justice and prison reform, much as we did here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. And the First Step Act—she discussed this act with President Trump and Vice President PENCE, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and lawmakers, including Senator HYDE-SMITH and me.

She also started the Love Letters Program in which she donated stationery and stamps to inmates, allowing them to write to their loved ones. In her new role as Miss USA, she plans to expand Love Letters to a national level and continue advocating for criminal justice and prison reform.

You can see why I am so proud of Asya Branch and so impressed with her accomplishments. She has the honor of holding two State titles and now a national title. This speaks to her unique gifts, accomplishments, courage, and passion for bringing about constructive change to the world.

I commend Asya for her example of perseverance. She has made Mississippi proud, and I think she is going to make the United States proud as she moves forward next year to the Miss Universe pageant, where I am sure she will do well. I encourage all Americans to root for her next year, as we will certainly be doing at my house.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, here it is November 18. It seems like the election was a few years ago. Time is flying