

the Democratic leader would stop blocking this bipartisan bill that Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have introduced and that passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Mr. President, on one final matter, every other December we have the difficult task of saying farewell to some of our colleagues. Today, I want to say a few words about our friend from Arizona, Senator MCSALLY, whose successor, I believe, will be sworn into office tomorrow.

Before she was Senator MCSALLY or Congresswoman MCSALLY, she was known as Colonel MCSALLY—a dedicated, courageous, and extremely talented Air Force pilot.

During her 26-year career in the Air Force, she made a habit out of breaking barriers and became the first woman in U.S. history to fly a fighter jet in combat.

But those of us who know Senator MCSALLY can say—and certainly her incredible staff can attest to this—that she is not one to rest on her laurels. She was always pushing herself and those around her to aim higher, to do better, to work harder. So it is no surprise she became the first woman ever to command a fighter squadron in the Air Force.

Her arrival in the Senate brought with it a wealth of knowledge and experience on many issues that are important to our work here, particularly those surrounding the military and veterans, and Senator MCSALLY has been a fierce and unyielding advocate for all of our servicemembers and veterans and their families.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, she has played a critical role in developing major legislation to support them, such as the National Defense Authorization Act, which I mentioned earlier.

But she has also been a champion to our servicemembers through lesser known but still very important legislation. Last month, President Trump signed a bill she introduced to improve mental health delivery for veterans and to help those who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to receive the treatment they need.

Over the last 2 years, I have enjoyed working with Senator MCSALLY on a number of shared priorities. Both of our home States were devastated by mass shootings, and we introduced legislation to reduce that sort of horrific violence and to prevent more communities from experiencing these tragedies. Of course, we are both Senators from border States, so you can imagine that we have worked together to improve border security along our southern border and ensure that trade and the good parts of having a common border with our southern neighbor remain effective and efficient. Once COVID-19 hit, we teamed up on legislation to protect the healthcare workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic.

Senator MCSALLY has continuously fought for change, both big and small, to improve the lives of her constituents in Arizona and to strengthen our national security. We will miss this dedicated friend and colleague, but I know her work is far from finished. I have no doubt that Senator MCSALLY will remain a strong voice for Arizonans and an unshakable advocate for our servicemembers and veterans. We are grateful for her lifelong service to our country, and I am eager to see the ways that Senator MCSALLY will continue to make her home State proud and make the American people's lives just a little bit better each day.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Hauptman nomination expire at 11:45 a.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Davis nomination, the Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Waller nomination. I further ask that the postcloture time with respect to the Davis nomination expire at 2:05 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination and that the confirmation vote with respect to the Waller nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader on Thursday, December 3; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to, once again, talk about the need for this Senate and this Congress to pass legislation to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. I think we have to do this now before the end of the year—certainly, before we leave the Congress to go back home for the holiday recess.

We just got back from a weeklong recess for Thanksgiving, and all the Members of this body—all of them—had to have seen what I saw, which is an up-close look at the crisis that is upon us.

In Ohio, our daily new cases are four times what they were just 1 month ago—four times. I see the numbers every single day, and they are discouraging.

And it is not just new cases. It is more people hospitalized. It is more

people in the ICU units. It is more people, tragically, who are counted among the fatalities.

This morning, I tried to call a friend of mine who is in the hospital in Columbus, OH. He is there because of COVID. And I am just thinking probably of the people watching tonight, most either have had COVID themselves or have a friend or a family member who have had COVID.

This friend was unable to talk to me because he had taken a turn for the worse. His organs were starting to malfunction. He had slipped into unconsciousness. I was able to speak to his wife. I told her, of course, that he is in our prayers. But I also told her that he is in my thoughts as we look at whether we should do something more here at the Federal level to help with the coronavirus pandemic.

Of course, we should. It has been a long time since we took action. You really have to go back several months. The last big package was passed in March, about 9 months ago. It is time for us to act again.

And there is some good news out there. With all of the negative news about the cases and hospitalizations, ICUs, and, tragically, the fatalities increasing, the good news is that there is hope on the horizon, and that is the vaccines.

I have been a big supporter of providing the Federal funding for the vaccines. And I applaud the administration for the work they have done on this Operation Warp Speed because I believe that while masks are critical—and I wear mine, and I hope you are wearing yours—the social distancing is very helpful; the work that people are doing on the therapies is really important; and we need more testing, and that is good to know where we stand, but nothing can take the place of these vaccines.

Think about the other diseases we have tackled with vaccines—measles and small pox and polio. My dad had polio as a kid. It was fairly common. Today, we don't even think about it.

These vaccinations, if they work well, can be amazing. And guess what we learned over the past several weeks. We learned that the early results from some of these vaccines, including the early data we have from the Moderna and the Pfizer candidates are incredibly effective. We are talking over 90 percent efficacy or effectiveness.

I am participating in one of the trials. It is the Janssen-Johnson & Johnson trial. That vaccine shows promise also. I joined the trial, by the way, for a few reasons: One, because I really want to understand better how this system is working, and I had received a briefing from a company that manages trials around the world, and they indicated to me that they were having trouble getting people to sign up. So another reason I entered was because I asked them: If I sign up, will that help? They said: If you are willing to go public, yes. So I did, and I am.