

Senate Republican conference, an important leadership position in which he influenced his fellow Members to accomplish conservative achievements by working in unison.

Currently, LAMAR is the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, Committee—a “Class A” committee in the Senate. In 2016, he was instrumental in passing the overwhelmingly bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act—landmark legislation that has brought new innovations and advances to patients who need them faster and more efficiently.

I have been blessed to serve with LAMAR on the Senate Rules Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he is the current chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

In this role on Appropriations, he has supported and advanced a host of important national priorities, such as nuclear security, critical infrastructure projects across the country, and the science and research taking place at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. I, along with my colleagues on the committee, am grateful for his hard work to craft many years of significant and influential funding measures.

LAMAR came to the Senate as a staffer and is leaving as chairman of one of the largest and most significant committees in the Senate. His impact and leadership during his time here has been both substantial and constructive.

LAMAR and I have travelled the world together. Annette and I have enjoyed the many hours spent with Honey and him. He will be missed in the Senate. I thank Senator ALEXANDER for his dedication to the betterment of our country and wish him all the best in his next chapter of life.

HONORING AMERICA'S FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as we approach the end of another year, I rise to remember all those American men and women who have given what President Lincoln called “the last full measure of devotion” in service to this great Nation.

I often reflect on the Gettysburg Address when thinking about our servicemembers and veterans. We all know this short, somber speech has reverberated throughout our history with an influence that vastly exceeds the few minutes for which Lincoln actually spoke. In November 1863, President Lincoln stood on the battlefield in Gettysburg to bless those brave soldiers who had fallen in what was the bloodiest battle in U.S. history up to that point. The “last full measure of devotion” remark has always resonated with me, as it does with so many Americans, but Lincoln had another message in his address. He said, “It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

Even in moments of mourning, Lincoln charged those still standing to rededicate themselves to the hard work of preserving our Nation’s integrity, protecting our fundamental freedoms, and building our families’ security and prosperity. In a time of great division, this was no small task, and it today remains one of our urgent and most solemn tasks.

The year after the Gettysburg Address, the women of Boalsburg, PA, began a tradition that would carry on for generations. They gathered together to decorate the gravestones of their loved ones who had gone to God. They wanted to reach beyond the pain to show their fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons that their memories endure in the hearts and minds of the living. Honoring the spirit and sacrifice of our military and veterans isn’t just about isolated days of commemoration on Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year, it is about the work we do every day to be worthy of their valor, as my father used to say.

As we discuss a potential U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, combat the resurgence of ISIS in the Middle East, exercise oversight over other U.S. military engagements overseas, and look to resolve increasingly complicated global crises, we must not forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, particularly in the most recent wars. The numbers are important: 7034 Americans have lost their lives in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with an additional 7 killed in African Command operations since 2001. This includes 300 servicemembers from Pennsylvania—the fifth highest toll of any State. Over 53,000 have been wounded, including more than 2,000 from Pennsylvania. Although this administration refuses to be transparent in its deployment tracking, press reports indicate that approximately 7,500 Americans are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, with an additional 65,000 serving in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

This year, for the first time in nearly two decades, Pennsylvania did not lose any servicemembers abroad. While I am grateful Pennsylvania did not suffer losses this year, this milestone only serves as a reminder of the grim toll that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taken on the Commonwealth and the Nation. As families of fallen servicemembers continue to mourn, we must reconsider the nature of our military commitments overseas and recommit to ensuring those who serve are taken care of.

These fighting men and women were born into families, not into divisions and brigades. They are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. Their love for their families is matched only by their devotion to our country.

But many more bear the scars of war. Some families have a loved one who served in Iraq or Afghanistan and returned home but was one of the 53,250

wounded. And we must not overlook the unusually high percentage of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who have died since returning home, whether from drug overdose or suicide. Thousands of American families continue to pay a terrible price for the courage and dedication of their family members who gave life and limb for this country.

As we look to a new year and a new Congress, I am reminded of the moments when policymakers reached across the aisle, putting partisan differences aside to implement ideas that best served the American people. We can think about the establishment of the first system of State veterans homes after the Civil War, enactment of the GI bill after World War II, creation of the modern, Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs under President Reagan, all required foresight and courage to see come to fruition. The year ahead provides an opportunity for further bipartisan cooperation in service of our veterans and our men and women in uniform.

Each of us, those who have served and those who haven’t, must be a part of the effort toward healing. We can meet today’s challenges with the spirit of the women in Boalsburg so many years ago, to remember our past and keep working towards our future. We can continue our work here in Washington, in Pennsylvania, and across the Nation, to ensure we are worthy of the valor of the men and women we commemorate today. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to reflect every day on the sacrifice of those who came before us.

As another year comes to a close, we remember and honor those who have laid down their lives for this great Nation. God bless them.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DOUG JONES' STAFF

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, as I mentioned in my farewell speech last week, I also wanted to spend a few final moments here on the Senate floor honoring my incredible staff. As the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Alabama in two decades, I had no idea how many brilliant young folks would want to come work in my offices, but we were absolutely overwhelmed with the talent my election attracted—and not just from Alabama—we had applicants from all over the country. We of course tried to give priority to folks from Alabama, but we did have a few from other States who brought special expertise and who, after just a short time with us, became honorary Alabamians.

Some of my staff came from other Senate or House offices where they had been biding their time, hoping 1 day to work for an Alabama Democratic Senator. Their experience was critical. Some staff members brought no legislative experience at all, but they were quick and eager learners and got up to speed unbelievably fast. What they all

had in common was a deep and sincere commitment to doing the right thing for the right reasons.

There were very few shortcuts and very few easy decisions, but we all worked hard to understand the issues backwards and forwards and to do our best for the people of Alabama and for our country. Although each member of the staff was acutely aware that I would have to stand for reelection in just 3 short years, they were as committed as I was to not let political considerations enter into our deliberations. Instead we focused on the needs of our constituents, big and small, and doing all we could to make sure those needs were met.

Over the past 3 years, we have become a family, and we have had some fun to boot. Equally important, we have gotten things done. We led or coled over 20 bipartisan bills that were signed into law. We mustered enough support to finally repeal the Widow's Tax. We secured permanent Federal funding for HBCUs and minority-serving institutions. We made things easier for folks applying for Federal student loans. We secured authorizations and appropriations for hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for defense-related projects in Alabama. We set up a process to collect and make available to the public the Federal records from unsolved civil rights crimes. We completed 2,094 requests for casework help and responded to hundreds of thousands of calls, letters, and emails from Alabama constituents. We submitted 624 letters in support of Alabamians' grant applications, resulting in \$270,973,411 in awards for municipalities, nonprofits, colleges and universities, rural fire departments, health centers, and others. Out of the outstanding high school seniors who I nominated to our military service academies, 44 have received appointments, and that is in just our first 2 years alone; we won't know the results for 2020 until next spring. We did more than 1,000 interviews, speeches, town-halls, and events across the State of Alabama and in DC. None of these things, absolutely none of them, would have been possible without the hard work and unflagging dedication of my staff.

My time in the U.S. Senate was enhanced immeasurably by the tangible and intangible contributions of my staff. As I said earlier, we knew we only had 3 years guaranteed, and we made the most of it. From our amazing record of legislative accomplishments, to our warm and welcoming office culture, to our emphasis on bipartisanship and collegiality, we made a positive difference, and I am immensely proud to have served with each of them.

Although it is impossible to go through the contributions of each I do want to single out a few who really made the office click or were responsible in some way for a major accomplishment.

First is my chief of staff Dana Gresham. Dana came to me by way of the

House and then the Department of Transportation. He has always been a leader, and for me, I was so proud to have him as the first African-American chief of staff for a Democratic Senator. He was instrumental in building the staff and guiding the delicate nature of Beltway and Alabama politics.

My legislative director Mark Libell brought a level of experience and direction to our legislative team that I think is unmatched in the Senate. He brought a level of skill to the legislative process that is largely responsible for the many successes we had.

Katie Campbell doubled as the deputy legislative director and legislative assistant on our healthcare related matters. She brought a tremendous amount of knowledge and was thus a tremendous resource for our healthcare agenda, which was always one of my top priorities.

On the Banking Committee, I was fortunate to have Mike Berman for a couple of years before he moved into the private sector. Mike began the painstaking process of revising the country's money laundering laws which his successor on the staff, Lauren Oppenheimer, picked up. Thanks to their combined efforts and working with colleagues and various stakeholders and regulators, Congress passed as part of the NDAA an update to our money laundering laws for the first time in decades.

My friend of 20 years Cissy Jackson came to Washington after practicing law with me in Birmingham. She had no legislative experience but soon became a rockstar among the Senate staff on both sides of the aisle, first with the Homeland Security Committee and then as my MLA on the Armed Services Committee. So much of what we were able to secure for the people of Alabama in the NDAA is a direct result of Cissy's tireless and persistent efforts.

Rebecca Howard handled education policy for me. Through her efforts, we secured additional and permanent funding for HBCUs, as well as the success in simplifying the FAFSA form, which will allow so many kids in Alabama to receive a college education. She also coordinated the annual HBCU symposiums that we conducted each year.

The director of my State staff was Brantley Fry. Brantley made sure that I stayed incredibly busy when I was at home. We traveled from one end of the State to the other. We visited businesses, military installations, schools, and farms. She coordinated the town-halls and roundtables, all with an eye to the important issues facing the State.

Heather Fluit was my communications director and she did tremendous work keeping the people of Alabama up to speed on all the good work that we were doing in Washington and around the State. This could be a difficult job at times on weedy issues like money laundering, but Heather excelled.

I could not conclude these remarks, however, without once again noting what was one of my proudest moments in the Senate when we successfully eliminated the Military Widow's Tax. It took a tremendous amount of effort and persistence in making that legislation a reality, and so much of the credit goes to Sarah Kate Sullivan in my office. Like me and my colleague Senator COLLINS, Sarah Kate never gave up, and today, so many military families will benefit from her efforts.

My wife Louise and I thank each of these individuals listed below from the bottom of our hearts. We love them all like family, and we wish them all the very best in their future careers:

Katie Campbell, Deputy Legislative Director.

Olivia Chartier, Deputy Scheduler.

Sam Coleman, Press Secretary.

Jordan Cozby, Staff Assistant.

Gregory Early, Military Fellow.

Elise Fink, Fellow.

Mike Flint, Fellow.

Heather Fluit, Communications Director.

Jasmine Goodman, Staff Assistant.

Dana Gresham, Chief of Staff.

Rebecca Howard, Legislative Assistant.

Cissy Jackson, Counsel and National Security Advisor.

Roger Johnson, Staff Assistant.

Darren Kinnaird, Systems Administrator.

Smriti Krishnan, Heflin Fellow.

Mark Libell, Deputy Chief of Staff / Legislative Director.

Leila Mohaideen, Digital Director / Deputy Press Secretary.

Becca Murdoch, Legislative Correspondent.

Lacy Nelson, Digital Assistant / Deputy Press Secretary.

Koby Noel, Mailroom Director.

Lauren Oppenheimer, Senior Economic Policy Advisor.

Avery Phillip, Press Assistant.

Judy Rainey, Administrative Director.

Zoe Scott, Staff Assistant.

Abby Selden, Counsel.

Laura Sherrod, Legislative Aide.

Jack Spalding, Research Director.

Jessica Spence, Legislative Correspondent.

Garrett Stephens, Legislative Correspondent.

Caroline Stonecipher, Press Secretary.

Brenda Strickland, Director of Scheduling.

Sarah Kate Sullivan, Projects Director.

Ted Trippi, Legislative Correspondent.

Emma Turner, Scheduling Assistant.

Calvin Willborn, Special Assistant.

Kern Williams, Legislative Correspondent.

Michael Williams, Legislative Correspondent.

ALABAMA

Anna Bern, Field Representative.

Bonnie Beviacqua, Staff Assistant.

Beau Bowden, Field Representative.

Ricky Chapman, Staff Assistant.

Eden Cockrell, Staff Assistant.

Paula Cox, Staff Assistant.

Donald Dees, Field Representative.

Sam Duff, Staff Assistant.

Jason Fisher, Field Representative.

Brantley Fry, State Director.

April Hodges, Field Representative.

Sandra Jackson, Regional Director.

Shandlerla McMillian, Caseworker.

Kate Messervy, Field Representative.

Jim Perdue, Regional Director.

Jose Perry Jr, Regional Director.

June Reeves-Weir, Caseworker.

Liz Rutledge, Field Representative.

Amber Selman-Lynn, Field Representative.

Ron Sparks, Senior Advisor.

Al Stokes, Regional Director.
Rick Tate, Staff Assistant.
Susan Thompson, Caseworker and Grants Coordinator.
Zandra Wilson, Caseworker.
Violeta Yanez, Community Outreach Coordinator.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD RONALD KNOCK

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to honor the passing of a great Kentuckian, Richard Ronald Knock, or Dick, as he was known to his friends and family. He died December 8, 2020, at the age of 82.

Dick was born June 28, 1938 in Cold Spring, KY. Dick's name was always mentioned with high praise. He was valued in his community, as he was known to lend a helping hand when needed and provided a thoughtful ear when spoken to. Mr. Knock came from a humble upbringing, but through his own deeds, he rose to the pinnacle of his profession, being a respected member of many institutions, including as CEO of Knock Investments; CEO of Omaha Enterprises; through his service on the Board of Trustees at University of the Columbians; and as chairman of Board of Commissioners for the Boone County Water District.

Dick was also an active political pundit within his community. His commitment to freedom was unmatched, and he often proved to be a great source of wisdom for elected leaders such as myself. Dick worked tirelessly in bringing Republicans throughout the Commonwealth together in the name of freedom. I can recall during my first election he opened his house for an event that featured my predecessor, Senator Jim Bunning, that helped unify Republicans in a critical area of our State. A picture from that event hangs in my Washington office to this day. With his passing, we have lost one of our brightest and loudest freedom fighters, but, as Dick would want, the voices of liberty will remain loud and clear.

While we share in the great sadness of his passing, it with great joy we look back at his life, his many accomplishments, and the positive impact he had on his community and Kentuckians across the Commonwealth. We honor Dick and his family, and may he rest in peace.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY OF ART MINISTRIES

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize a milestone achievement for a ministry in my State. The Academy of Arts Ministries is celebrating its 50th anniversary in South Carolina on January 8, 2021. This ministry has trained thousands of students in the arts and sent them out in

their local communities to share the Good News about God through their art.

Its founder, Dr. Nicky Chavers, has dedicated the last 50 years to giving young people a safe avenue to be creative through the Logos Theatre, nationwide traveling ministries, a professional film company and more. The young people in my great state of South Carolina have truly benefited from the sacrifices of Dr. Chavers and the entire team at the Academy of Art Ministries.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 20, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 110. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on December 20, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 979. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to incorporate the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office relating to advance contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 1694. An act to require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to add recommendations and inform other relevant agencies of information relating to the principle of due regard and the limitation of harmful interference with Apollo landing site artifacts, and for other purposes.

S. 2174. An act to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Act, the Attorney General is authorized to use funds appropriated for the operationalization, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

S. 2683. An act to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety.

S. 2730. An act to establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory Committee.

S. 3312. An act to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3418. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to

establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm.

S. 3989. An act to amend the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 to modify certain membership and other requirements of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 5036. An act to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2023, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1966. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to complete a study on barriers to participation in federally funded cancer clinical trials by populations that have been traditionally underrepresented in such trials.

H.R. 5023. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Youngstown, Ohio, as the "Carl Nunziato VA Clinic".

H.R. 5459. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6237. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to clarify the requirement of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to reimburse the Indian Health Service for certain health care services.

H.R. 7898. An act to amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider certain recognized security practices of covered entities and business associates when making certain determinations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8906. An act to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 9:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1520) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 128. Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1520.

H. Con. Res. 127. Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 133.

At 10:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment: