

“Aloha.” As Senator REID said, it is so appropriate that this kind and gentle American hero would leave the message of love for everyone else. That was his life.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the eloquent remarks made by my colleague Senator DURBIN, Senator REID, and all those who have come to praise a one-of-a-kind Senator and extraordinary human being, my friend DAN'S INOUE.

I was telling Senator LIEBERMAN that when the Senate put on a little retirement dinner for our retiring Senators—including Senator LIEBERMAN—there was Senator INOUE. When we look back, it was only 2 weeks ago. We know he could not have been strong, he was not well, but he came to that dinner and sat at that table because of the love and respect for the individual Senators and for this institution.

As for me, I will miss DANNY'S sonorous voice, his big heart, his self-effacing manner, his integrity, and his patriotism.

Over the years, so many of us have worked together on so many issues with DAN. I worked on bringing a state-of-the-art, first ever comprehensive casualty care center to my State to take care of the wounded vets who were coming home without their limbs, post-traumatic stress, and all the problems they had. There was no such place on the west coast, and with DAN'S help—and we worked with Senator Stevens—we got it done. Now that facility really stands as a tribute to DAN'S INOUE.

In 2010 I had a very difficult campaign, as most of us did at that time, and DAN'S said: I am going to come out there and help you. I was under fierce attack, and we had an event for veterans. DAN'S was a speaker, and I was a speaker. As I was speaking, we heard these voices of screaming demonstrators yelling things that were not complimentary toward me, let's put it that way. It was very loud, and I was so humiliated and embarrassed. Here was this amazing patriot, and they would keep screaming when DANNY was speaking about my work and his work for veterans. Sure enough, the demonstrators kept it up, and I was so upset.

I went up to him and I put my arm around him when he was finished and said: DAN, I am so embarrassed. I am so sorry.

He said: BARBARA, they are not going to beat you by screaming. Don't worry about it.

He went on to go to a couple of other events, and he took his wife to them. He was extraordinary.

I loved DANNY with all of my heart. Every time I looked at him, I smiled because he was so good. He was such a good person, and I pay tribute to him today. I don't think we will ever replace him. We will never replace this

remarkable American. He personified the meaning of love and the meaning of country.

I send my love to his family.

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT TRAGEDY

Mrs. BOXER. In my remaining remarks, I want to talk about what happened in Connecticut.

First, to the Senators from Connecticut, I send all my strength. I have gone through things like this, although not quite the same. As a mom and grandma, I know all of our hearts are broken. So many people are touched by gun violence.

I want to go back to July of 1993. A gunman with an assault weapon walked into a law office in San Francisco and killed eight people and wounded six. Just as we see in Connecticut, the stories of heroism came forward. One of the people who was killed was a brave young lawyer who threw his body over his wife's body, sacrificing his own life to save hers. That young man was one of my son's best friends. This was so long ago, but it feels like yesterday because time stops when these things happen.

I know without a shadow of a doubt how these horrific and senseless tragedies live on with the survivors and all of us forever. The psyche of the parents, the spouses, the children, the families, and the friends is pierced forever.

Yes, as human beings, after these tragedies we come together. We try to find meaning, we try to find justice, and we try to find love in the midst of the mayhem. Some find solace in their faith and their God, some find solace in their communities, and some never find solace.

The slaughter of the innocent must stop. I say to my colleagues in Connecticut how deeply everyone has been touched by this tragedy. In my communities at home, people are running up to me and saying: Our hearts are breaking. He killed babies. They were barely on this Earth. They trusted us, and we failed them.

Some of the people coming up to me are proud gun owners, and they are saying: Why couldn't we stop a sick person like this from getting a high-capacity clip? The gunman didn't even have to reload his weapon until he fired off 30 shots.

There is the whole issue of protecting our schools, which is something I have cared about. I have a school safety act. I have introduced it so many times, and I will introduce it again.

Instead of having an appointment with a mental health professional, this mentally ill young man had an appointment with death. People say: Don't talk about doing anything about this now; it is not the time. To them I say: When is the time?

If we go back to 2009—that is the last year we have records—31,347 people died from gun violence in our Nation.

That is 87 people every day of the year. Another 73,000-plus were injured. So 87 people a day are killed by gun violence. When is the time to speak out? Because every day there is another tragedy.

Without going into specifics, there are certain things we need to do.

First, we have to take the weapons of war and high-capacity clips off our streets; second, we have to ensure that local law enforcement is involved in concealing carried permits; third, we have to close the gun show loophole so background checks are conducted; fourth, we have to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill and get them the help they need; five, we need to keep our schools safe by utilizing all the law enforcement tools at our disposal.

We have failed our children. We have to stop worrying about our political skins because judgments will be made about us. So let's pull together. Let's show our children we love them, not just by telling them we love them—we must do that—but by showing them we will protect them.

I send my love to everyone in Connecticut trying to pull themselves together. I send my love and support to my colleagues whom we will hear from now.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

I also wish to thank my dear friend and colleague from California for her words of support and comfort and resolve. We appear to be in one of those periods of time where we are walking too often through the valley of the shadow of death. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have come to the floor to speak about the tragedy that occurred; the senseless, horrific attacks on innocent people in Newtown, CT, last Friday.

Mr. President, I note with extraordinary respect and a sense of loss the death of our truly beloved colleague Senator DAN INOUE of Hawaii. America, as Senator REID and Senator DURBIN made so clear, has lost a true hero, a patriot. This Senate has lost a great leader—a leader whose accomplishments have been literally historic. I think all of us have lost a friend.

Last evening, Senator AKAKA spoke about how DAN INOUE'S legacy—I am paraphrasing—was all around Hawaii and all he had done for the State. The truth is I think most every State in the country is full of legacies of the service of DAN INOUE. I know it is true of Connecticut.

It was truly my honor to serve for 24 years with DAN INOUE. He was exactly the opposite of all the caricature pictures people have of Congress today and particularly about the rabid partisanship and personal incivility. DAN was a great gentleman and the most civil of people, the kindest and most decent of people. As Senator REID said, he was a proud Democrat, a faithful

Democrat but not at all partisan. The relationship he had with the late Ted Stevens on the Appropriations Committee was historic and actually inspirational. They were so different ostensibly in their background and in their temperament, particularly. Ted Stevens, bless his memory, was my neighbor and my dear friend. Let's say he had a—how do I describe it? He was a very emotional person. DANNY INOUE was more calm. But they formed this remarkable friendship based on shared history, going back to World War II, and probably some sense of shared destiny in the sense they were both from the two last States to join the Union, not part of the continental United States, and came as the first Senators and were here so long. But truly what united them was an enormous dedication to America and patriotism.

I said DAN INOUE's legacy is in Connecticut and probably most every other State. I could go around the State, and I am thinking of the years and years that DANNY was the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. There wasn't anything we were able to do for Connecticut in that time that he didn't support, including protecting Long Island Sound, the Connecticut River, improving our transportation systems, making grants to our schools, colleges, and universities, and support of the defense industries in Connecticut which have meant so much to the defense of our country but also to the economy of our State.

I salute his memory. All of us should honor it and all of us should try in our own way to emulate this great man.

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT TRAGEDY

Mr. LIEBERMANN. Mr. President, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I come to the floor to thank our colleagues for adopting by unanimous consent S.R. 621, which is exactly mirrored in the words of H.R. 833, condemning the attacks that occurred in Newtown, CT, last Friday and expressing sorrow to all those affected by those attacks. We are still in shock in Connecticut. All of us who know this little town, as America has come to know it, which includes 27,000, 28,000 people, known it is a beautiful town with hard-working people who worked their way to get there. These are tight families, very religious, very much involved in the life of the community, and peaceful. Out of nowhere—and this tragically is the point and the warning—comes this one deranged individual with guns and slaughters 26 innocents, breaking our hearts, and 20 of those being young children.

I am sure everybody now feels as if they are part of the family of those who were killed. We look at the faces of those children, pure and innocent, and I think of the words of one of the clergymen at the interfaith service the other night: These are angels and they

are really with the angels in Heaven now.

With the work and response of the first responders and the trauma they have gone through to face what they had to face and the carnage they witnessed there, as we talk to some of them they feel guilty they didn't get there earlier and couldn't have stopped it somehow. Of course, they did more than we could ask of anybody. They ran to the danger. The principal, the teachers—I mean the stories that come out about the heroism.

I remember long ago I heard someone speak who said the definition of courage is grace under pressure. "Pressure" is not even the right word here; it is grace in a moment of terror, the single-mindedness and the grace of the principal, the teachers who acted in a way that put their own lives on the line to protect the lives of the children. Let us speak the truth. There were hundreds more children in that building that could have been targets of this madman.

We are wounded, but I will tell my colleagues America is wounded and the world is wounded. A priest said to me the other night at the service he was so touched that he had received a bundle of letters from schoolchildren in Russia. It reminded me there was an incident in Russia years ago where a gunman went into a schoolhouse and wantonly killed children, and monsignor was so touched by it, but that is the way this event has touched the world.

I will tell my colleagues this is a strong town and we can feel the people of this community pulling together to support the survivors and thinking about how they can rebuild the town and its spirit. One woman said so poignantly the other night at the interfaith service that we will not allow this event to define Newtown, CT—and they will not—but the families of those who have been lost have been changed forever.

It is in that regard I particularly want to thank my colleagues for this resolution of condolence and support. I wish to thank my colleague Senator REID for the moment of silence yesterday in this Chamber. In my faith tradition, when a person visits a house of mourning, one of the customs is for the visitor to sit silently with the mourners. It is very awkward. It is actually not the natural thing we want to do, but this tradition has come about as an act of respect to the mourners because they may be in their own mourning internally, and we want to allow them to speak first if they want to speak. The other is that in the face of death, and particularly in the senseless, brutal deaths of these 26 in Newtown, sometimes the best response is silence and all that the silence contains. So I thank my colleague Senator REID for that moment of silence.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I and our Connecticut congressional delegation convened a vigil last night at which we all spoke, and Father Conroy, the

Chaplain of the House, offered prayer. Chaplain Black could not be there because he was at Senator INOUE's bedside with his family. We thank all our colleagues who came last night. Their presence meant a lot to us and it meant a lot to the people back home in Newtown.

The question is, Can we do anything to stop this from happening again, even once, but hopefully more often. What can we do? As the President said—incidentally, the President's visit to Newtown was so comforting to the families and all the town, all the people of Connecticut. He brought comfort, and I will say he brought resolve, which was very moving and inspiring to everyone there. As he said, these situations are always complicated. We can always say, as we look at all the possible causes of such a tragedy, that even if we did something about that, even if we banned all guns, there would still be violence or even if we provided better mental health treatment, there would still be people who would break through and commit acts of violence, and even if we removed all the stimuli to violence in our entertainment culture, still people would commit these acts. Of course, that is true, but do we not have the capacity to intervene at the different points in the story of this young man to stop this from happening, at least once, again, and probably many more times? Of course we have that capacity.

I keep being taken back, as people say that human nature is violent—of course, there is violence that goes back to the beginning of recorded history. We remember the two children of Adam and Eve. Cain killed Abel in a terribly violent act. But I think we also have to be instructed by what happened after that when God speaks to Cain and says: Where is your brother?

Cain feigns ignorance and asks the question that echoes through the millennia since then: Am I my brother's keeper?

God says to Cain, in Genesis: What have you done? We can hear in our minds' ears the voice of God in anger: What have you done? You have killed your brother. You have killed my creation.

Then God says: Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

I think in that the Bible instructs us—the words of God instruct us—that we are our brothers' keepers, we are our sisters' keepers and, of course, we are, most of all, our children's keepers. We can never say, oh, people are violent and turn away. We have the capacity—particularly we here, honored and privileged to serve in the Senate, serve in the House, serve in the White House—to do something about this.

Somebody said to me, as the President said the other night, if we save just one child's life by what we will do, it will have been worth it.

We can save a lot more than one child if we work together. I have talked to people since Friday who said to me: