

so many hopes and dreams dashed, so many families grieving, the country was heartbroken, my wife and I were heartbroken, and we are still. I wish we could offer more than our thoughts and our prayers and the thoughts and prayers of our fellow Minnesotans.

We cannot turn back time. We cannot bring back the lives we have lost. But if there is something we can do today in this Chamber—this week in this Chamber—to save lives in our communities tomorrow, to make it more likely that boy will be coming out of the school, then I think we should do it.

Thank you.

I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate only be extended until 8:30 p.m. and that at 8:30 p.m. the majority leader be recognized.

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

Mr. FRANKEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the Manchin-Toomey amendment No. 715 to be set aside and the following amendments be in order to be called up: Grassley substitute amendment consistent with the summary, which is at the desk; Leahy-Collins amendment No. 713, trafficking; Cornyn amendment No. 719, conceal carry; Feinstein amendment No. 711, assault weapons-clip bans; Burr amendment No. 720, veterans-guns; Lautenberg-Blumenthal amendment No. 714, high-capacity clip ban; Barrasso amendment No. 717, privacy; and Harkin-Alexander amendment relative to mental health, the text of which is at the desk; that following leader remarks on Wednesday, April 17, the time until 4 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees to debate the amendments concurrently; that at 4 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Manchin amendment No. 715; that upon disposition of the Manchin amendment, the Senate proceed to votes in relation to the remaining pending amendments in the order listed; that all amendments be subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold; that no other amendments or motions to commit be in order to any of these amendments or the bill prior to the votes; that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote, and all after the first vote be 10-minute votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, and Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### RECOGNIZING DARN TOUGH VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is known for many of its great businesses and products. Among those successful companies is Darn Tough Vermont, whose brand represents the commitment to quality and excellence that defines Vermont. For nearly a decade, Darn Tough Vermont has been making the type of quality products our Nation has grown to expect from Vermonters.

Darn Tough was launched in 2004 by Ric Cabot, whose family founded Darn Tough's parent company in Vermont 35 years ago. For three generations, the Cabot family has stayed true to their roots and committed to the Northfield community. While other clothing manufacturers have outsourced their labor, the Cabots carry on where they began—manufacturing in New England, keeping faith with their customers and their 120 employees.

Darn Tough has a local feel to those who visit its factory and know its operators, but the company's name brand is known across the country and around the world wherever people appreciate a high-quality wool hiking and athletic sock, and its products are even worn overseas by our troops in combat. And as with other Vermont companies that equip and outfit our military, taxpayers can rest assured our troops are in good hands when their feet are in quality goods made by Darn Tough.

The Burlington Free Press recently paid tribute to Ric Cabot and all of the employees at Darn Tough for their hard work that continues to benefit our troops and the Vermont economy. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the recent Free Press article entitled "Rebuilding American textiles, one sock at a time: Darn Tough measures success," be printed into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From Burlington Free Press, Apr. 4, 2012]

REBUILDING AMERICAN TEXTILES, ONE SOCK AT A TIME: DARN TOUGH MEASURES SUCCESS

(By Dan D'Ambrosio)

In Northfield, about 50 miles north of White River Junction where Ibex makes its home, Cabot Hosiery Mills, Inc. has been

making private label socks not only in America, but in Vermont, since 1978. Third generation owner Ric Cabot, who launched the company's own label—Darn Tough Vermont—in 2004, says one of the secrets to Darn Tough's success is the deceptive difficulty of making a good sock.

"People think socks are easy to do, it's just a pair of socks, how hard could it be?" Cabot said. "I guess that allows people to come into the market, but the staying power of companies that don't produce their own product is very short. There are so many people that are doing it well, it's hard to maintain a presence."

Perhaps the best symbol of Cabot's fastidiousness when it comes to socks is the 18-inch ruler projecting incongruously out of his back pocket when he greets visitors at the front door of the plain metal building that houses Darn Tough.

Cabot sat on the ruler and broke it about 20 years ago. He had one of Cabot's maintenance workers glue it back together, giving it the look of a broken bone that has healed well. There are certain things, Cabot says, you don't want to replace.

Cabot is never without his ruler as he roams the knitting floor and quality control departments of Darn Tough, handling socks, and measuring them.

"I sweat quarter-inches," Cabot says. "The first thing I do when I pick up a sock, is it the right length? If a sock is the right length, that means a lot of people are doing their jobs."

Later, at a quality audit station, Cabot picks up a sock, a men's large.

"Socks that made it this far, there's not going to be a huge hole, or wrong color, but the sizing should be right," he says. "This should be at or on 10¾ inches."

It's dead on. Socks, Cabot explains, are a math problem, "like most things in life." Among the numbers you have to work out are the size and gauge of the needles used to knit the socks. The gauge of the needle is basically how many needles you can fit in a circumference, because socks are knit in a circle.

"Those needles are in a cylinder," Cabot says. "You have to take into account needle size, cylinder size, what's the right weight of wool, nylon and Lycra? How are you going to reinforce it? How many stitches per inch? Where are you going to put the terry, the cushioning?"

Once you answer all of these many mathematical questions, Cabot says, you have the "DNA" of a Darn Tough sock. Then that DNA has to be expanded to hiking socks, running socks, cycling socks. Every sock has more in common, mathematically, than they don't have in common with other Darn Tough socks.

"That's the math of it, the durability story, the comfort story, the fit story," Cabot said.

But all those stories, he said, are trumped by another story when it comes to marketing Darn Tough socks: The Vermont story. Darn Tough employs about 120 people in Northfield, maintaining the New England tradition of textiles that once included hundreds of towns.

"You got to remind people, they know it, but you tell them nobody ever outsourced anything for quality," Cabot said. "That's the key."

#### LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO RAMBLERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Monday, college basketball fans crowned their newest champion, the Louisville Cardinals. I wish to take a