is to do everything they can to make sure this magnificent Capitol Complex is safe. Every day there are people who, if they could, would do damage to this Capitol and to the people who work here.

In 1998 two of our Capitol police officers were on duty. A crazed man—16 years ago—came into the Capitol and shot Jacob Chestnut cold dead, right there at what we call the Memorial Door. John Gibson heard this commotion and saved many tourists and staff from this crazed man, but in the process he was also killed. Both officers died that day. They had served a combined 36 years on the force protecting all of us and all of the many people who come to this Capitol Complex.

I know the families of these two officers. I have met with them on a yearly basis. I know nothing can make up for the loss of these two fine men 16 years ago, but I hope their families and friends take comfort in knowing that those of us who were here that day hold them in our memories and in our hearts.

While it is little solace to their families, the tragedy that day made the Capitol a safer place. It was because of them that we finally were able to make this a safer place. We had worked on it for well more than 10 years. We now have a visitor center. You walk outside; you see a beautiful lawn. Under that is a visitor center. There is as much underground there as on top of the ground.

Now people can come into the Capitol. They can be safe and secure. There are places to go to the bathroom. There is food and wonderful viewing in that complex. So because of these two men, we were able to get that done and make the Capitol a safer place. We have a Capitol visitor center now which prevents a madman like the one who shot these two police officers from entering the Capitol. We are grateful for their sacrifice. We are grateful every day to the devoted men and women like them who guard these hallowed halls.

As I remember, we had a Senate retreat in southern Virginia. My wife became ill. As I have said a number of times before, Agent Gibson rushed to her side. He had to run a long way from where they were. I can remember how he was perspiring when he came in. So I have fond memories of these two police officers and recognize the sacrifice they made for us.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING OFFICERS JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB CHESTNUT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to begin by remembering two men to whom we owe so much: Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson. Exactly 16 years ago these Capitol policemen were shot in the line of duty, paying a terrible price in defense of every one of us—Senators, staffers, pages, fellow officers, and every American citizen who passes through these hallowed halls. These men knew the grave risk that came with the job. Yet they chose to wear the badge anyway. They made the decision to stand in defense of the democratic ideal this building symbolizes.

We owe these men a debt that can never be repaid. So let's never forget their lives or their final act of heroism. We are reminded every time we pass the Capitol Police headquarters, which bears both of their names. We are reminded every time we notice the plaque in the Capitol that commemorates them. We are reminded by observing today's men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police as they continue to protect this institution, honorably continuing the watch of these two fallen officers.

Today the Senate honors Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson for their sacrifice. We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends left behind.

AMERICAN JOBS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if Senate Democrats were half as concerned about American jobs as they are about saving their own jobs this November, there would be almost no limit to what we could accomplish. Yet, rather than work with us to get anything serious accomplished for our constituents, we see the majority leader once again bowing to the whims of his campaign consultants and the Senate becoming little more than a campaign studio this week.

The majority leader can spend all of his time fighting for the consultant class if he wants, but that will not stop Republicans from offering commonsense, job-saving ideas that both sides should be able to support. For example, the senior Senator from Utah will offer an amendment that would repeal a Democratic tax that helped push manufacturing overseas and could kill as many as 165,000 American jobs. It is a measure that would likely pass if the majority leader would only allow a vote. I know some of our friends on the other side plan to offer amendments too. The question is, Will those Senators join us to demand that their amendments be considered too or will they allow the majority leader to shut down the legislative process one more time, silencing their constituents. I hope they will make the right decision.

Since the majority leader seems so determined to convince everyone that he cares about protecting American jobs this week, I am going to offer an opportunity to prove he is serious about it. He can do it by allowing a vote or even voting himself for an amendment of mine called the Saving Coal Jobs Act. He has already blocked this bill once before, but I will give him a chance to reconsider.

Everyone knows the administration's war on coal jobs is little more than an elitist crusade that threatens to undermine Kentucky's traditionally low utility rates, splinter our manufacturing base, and ship well-paying jobs overseas. My amendment seeks to push back against this war on coal, this war on ordinary American livelihoods, and it seeks to help protect the administration's targets too—Kentucky coal families who want little more than to put food on the table and give their children a better life. It is really not too much to ask. So the majority leader has a choice. Is he in favor of shipping Kentucky jobs overseas or will he help me protect the middle class by supporting this amendment?

Regardless of what he decides, though, I am going to keep fighting against this administration's unfair regulations. Yesterday the EPA Administrator came to Capitol Hill to defend the administration's extreme proposed energy regulations. She tried to assure legislators that the administration wanted input from the public as it went about developing and implementing its job-killing agenda. But it is hard to take her seriously because earlier this week I met with her in person and urged her to hold at least one listening session in coal country, the region most likely to be affected by the administration's regulations. She was unmoved. Apparently the Obama administration isn't all that interested in what Kentucky thinks. Well, if Washington officials won't come to Kentucky, then Kentuckians will come to Washington. Beginning next week, the administration plans to hold one of its listening sessions in Washington. I plan to testify and so do several of my constituents. Even though they will have to travel hundreds of miles to get here, these Kentuckians will make Washington understand they are more than just some statistic. They are our neighbors, they are moms and dads, and they refuse to be collateral damage in some elitist war dreamed up in a bureaucratic boardroom in Washington.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LT. COL. JOHN DARIN LOFTIS

Mr. President, today I celebrate the life of a Kentucky airman who lost his life while wearing our country's uniform. Lt. Col. John Darin Loftis of Paducah, KY, a 17-year veteran of the Air Force, was killed on February 25, 2012, in an attack on the Interior Ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was 44 years old.

For his service in uniform, Lieutenant Colonel Loftis received several awards, medals, and decorations, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.