

magazines, we are going to make sure everyone has the opportunity, and the Republicans can catch up. We can have the first amendment, the Toomey-Manchin amendment—I don't know if it is a Democratic amendment or a Republican amendment, but that is the first one we are going to do. After we get through these two things, we will have the Republicans. If they are two or three behind, they can catch up with us and then we can alternate back and forth. Even though there is no rule requiring it, that is the best way to move forward.

I am grateful to everyone we are here and able to start legislating on this issue that has caught the attention of the American people and, frankly, the world.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. President, we are having a joint meeting. I ask unanimous consent the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:30 today to allow for a joint caucus meeting, and that all time during recess and morning business count postcloture on the motion to proceed to S. 649.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before I make a statement relative to an unrelated issue, I just want to say a very quick word about the historic vote that took place a few minutes ago on the floor of the Senate. I believe we had 16 Republicans who joined us in an effort to proceed to a bill that will initiate a debate—one of the first in years—on the floor of the Senate about gun safety in America.

I salute those Members of the Senate from both sides of the aisle who supported that motion to proceed, but especially from the other side. I know it took a great deal of courage, political courage, for them to step up and to at least initiate this debate. I will tell you, there were those among them—some 13—who signed a letter saying: We are going to filibuster this matter to stop it. They did not succeed today in that effort because 16 on the Republican side joined us. I do not presume they are going to vote for all or any of the amendments to be offered. But at least they allowed the Senate to be the Senate instead of having us bogged down—as we have over 400 times in the last 6 years—in a filibuster.

I hope during the course of this debate on the floor we are able to have amendments debated and voted on. The majority leader made that request earlier, and I believe, for the good of this

Senate—and certainly for the debt we owe to America to address the issues of the day—we should address them in a bipartisan fashion in courteous but thorough debate. That is what the Senate has stood for as an institution, and I hope it does, and continues to.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN and Mr. COONS pertaining to the introduction of S. 718 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. HEITKAMP).

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. MURPHY. I come down to the floor for the second time today and maybe the fifth time over the last 2 days to talk again about the real reason we are here on the floor of the Senate this week and next week—to talk about the scourge of gun violence across the country and its victims.

We have had a good week this week on the floor of the Senate—a breakthrough on the matter of background checks, an agreement that we hope can forge the basis of a bill next week, an agreement that maybe doesn't move us as far as some of us would like in terms of making sure criminals in this country don't have guns but that moves us very far down the line toward a day when no criminals can go onto the streets of this country with guns, and then a very positive vote today in which Democrats and Republicans joined to break a threatened filibuster.

But these are the kids we are really here to talk about, and I wanted to come down before the week was over to talk about a few more victims just to make sure we are really clear about whom and what we are talking about.

Let me tell you about Chase Kowalski, one of the 7-year-olds killed by the gunman's bullets in Sandy Hook Elementary School. He was an amazing little kid. He was an athlete. Much like

Jack Pinto, whom I talked about yesterday, Chase was a young jock. He was 6 years old when he actually completed and won a kids triathlon in Mansfield, CT. He was so inspired from watching the Olympics last summer, seeing his heroes Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte do so well, that he went out and decided to learn how to swim and do it competitively. So with a little bit of help, he became a swimmer as well. His parents and surviving two older sisters, with a lot of his friends and family, ran together in honor of Chase's love for sports in a Sandy Hook 5K run that attracted thousands of people to the streets of Hartford.

Chase Kowalski could have done a lot of things. He clearly had this drive and initiative you don't find in a lot of kids who are only 7 years old. We will never really know who Chase was going to grow up to be, but he was a pretty remarkable young boy.

Jesse Lewis is here on this poster. His father, Neil Heslin, is here this week arguing and pleading for us to do something.

Jesse was a pretty amazing kid in his own right. He was 6 years old. The evening before the tragedy, he and his father had been out shopping for Christmas presents for his friends and family. One of the gifts they were going out to get was for his teacher Vicki Soto, who was killed the next morning along with him. Jesse was spending his own money on all these presents. He had \$37 to spend, which he had earned by helping his father with a variety of odd jobs.

That was Jesse. He wanted to do nice things for people, but he wanted to earn the right to do it, so it wasn't the first time he had gone out and basically earned the money at 6 years old in order to buy things. But he was still a kid. He grew up on a farm, so he loved horses and dogs and chicks, and he liked to go out and fish and play soccer. His dad was always outside working on projects, and he always wanted to be with his dad Neil.

He was a pretty amazing kid with a lot of initiative and drive for a 6-year-old. We will never really know who he was going to grow up to be either.

As I have talked about on this floor over the last 2 days, although so much of the attention is on those 20 kids, the reality is that 3,300 people have died since Newtown. That is where our focus should be as well, on people such as Brian Herrera, 16 years old, a straight-A student at Miami Jackson Senior High School. Three days before Christmas of last year, only about a week after the Newtown shootings, Brian was riding his bike to his best friend's house. He was doing exactly what he should have done—going to a friend's house to work on a school project—and he was gunned down in broad daylight in the middle of the pavement. He was still carrying his red backpack—a story we heard earlier today about someone else. This was a totally random shooting. I am not sure if this has