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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that John Pilkington of Senator Harkin’s staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today’s session.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mike Stebbins of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today’s session.

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

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sophie Thurber of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of this debate.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today’s session.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sophie Thurber of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today’s session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today’s Executive Calendar, calendar 170, 211, 221, 222, 226, 238, and 240, provided further that the following committees be discharged from further consideration of the list of nominations and the Senate proceed on bloc to their consideration. The HELP Committee: Henry Johnson, PN 572; Terrell Halaska, PN 685; Kevin Sullivan, PN 473; Bernice Phillips, PN 106; Thomas Fuentes, PN 105; Rules: Donetta Davidson, PN 749.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Rachel Brand, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Marcus C. Peacock, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

David R. Hill, of Missouri, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Jill Steinberg, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

DEPARTMENT OF HOME LAND SECURITY


DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Janice B. Gardner, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

John S. Redd, Georgia, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Henry Louis Johnson, of Mississippi, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

Terrell Halaska, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

Kevin F. Sullivan, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach, Department of Education.

Bernice Phillips, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005.

Thomas A. Fuentes, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Donetta Davidson, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission. Ms. Davidson was nominated by President Bush to serve the remainder of the 4-year term of DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., resigned. Her term will expire December 12, 2007.

CONFIRMATION OF DONETTA L. DAVIDSON

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today the Senate is acting to fill a vacant seat on the Election Assistance Commission. EAC with the confirmation of Ms. Donetta L. Davidson, of Colorado. Ms. Davidson was nominated by President Bush to serve the remainder of the 4-year term of DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., resigned. Her term will expire December 12, 2007.

I want to thank the distinguished Chairman of the Rules Committee, Senator Lott, for facilitating and expediting action on this nomination. By confirming Ms. Davidson at this time, the Senate is ensuring that the Commission will have a full complement of members as it faces action on some of the most important provisions of the Help American Vote Act this fall.

Nearly 3 years ago, President Bush signed into law the Help America Vote Act—HAVA. For the first time in our history, this landmark legislation required all States and local governments to administer Federal elections with non-discriminatory, user-friendly and fair and transparent elections. They serve as the mechanisms by which all eligible voters can cast their votes and have their votes counted.

Ms. Davidson’s qualifications will serve her well at the EAC and reflect her experience as both a State and local election official as well as an active participant on numerous national and State professional organizations. She currently serves as the Secretary of State for Colorado and previously served as the Assistant Secretary of State and Recorder in Littleton, CO and as the Director of Elections at the Colorado Department of State. In addition, she also serves as the vice chair of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Her background will bring to the EAC the election administration and technology skills and experience that will help facilitate the nationwide implementation of HAVA, in particular the voluntary voting system standards and the statewide voter registration lists. Taken as a whole, these two requirements promote accurate, accessible, nondiscriminatory, user-friendly and fair and transparent elections. They serve as the mechanisms by which all eligible voters can cast their votes and have their votes counted.

Ms. Davidson’s qualifications will serve her well at the EAC and reflect her experience as both a State and local election official as well as an active participant on numerous national and State professional organizations. She currently serves as the Secretary of State for Colorado and previously served as the Assistant Secretary of State and Recorder in Littleton, CO and as the Director of Elections at the Colorado Department of State. In addition, she also currently serves as the vice chair of the National Association of Secretaries of State.
1990s and her support for those standards contributed to their adoption in Colorado.

Most recently, Ms. Davidson served as one of the 15 experts on the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) established under HAVA to develop an initial set of recommendations for the voluntary voting system guidelines with technical support and expertise from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). At the end of the public comment process, these recommendations are expected to form the bases of the new Federal voluntary voting system guidelines issued by the EAC.

Ms. Davidson’s confirmation today ensures that the EAC has a full and permanent complement of commissioners as we move toward the full implementation of HAVA and the November 2006 Federal elections. The EAC will be well served by Ms. Davidson’s experience in election issues and her broad experience working with all stakeholders in Federal elections, including local election officials and their voters.

I congratulate Ms. Davidson on the honor of being nominated and confirmed to the Election Assistance Commission. It is an awesome responsibility and one that her background has prepared her well to meet.

To ensure that the Federal partnership goes beyond to all Americans and their very diverse experiences on election day, the Commission’s work must reflect more than just the perspectives of any single State or local election official. Commissioners must represent all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories—all of America and its diversity. I am confident that Commissioner Davidson will meet that goal.

While political races among candidates may be partisan, Federal elections cannot be. The Help America Vote Act is appropriately the first civil rights act of the 21st Century, and Congress must fulfill its commitment to the American people to provide the States sufficient resources to fund the mandated reforms.

In order for the EAC to meet its obligations under HAVA, it is critically important that Congress fully fund the agency and its requirements for fiscal year 2006. To support States in the nationwide implementation of HAVA, the Act authorized nearly $4 billion to pay States sufficient resources to fund the mandated reforms.

For fiscal year 2006, the EAC submitted an appropriations request at the funding level of $17,612,000, including four new staff positions, and the EAC with several responsibilities. To date, Congress has appropriated over $3 billion to the States and territories.

For fiscal year 2006, the EAC submitted an appropriations request at the funding level of $17,612,000, including four new staff positions, and the EAC with several responsibilities. To date, Congress has appropriated over $3 billion to the States and territories.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

HONORING TEAM DISCOVERY, LANCE ARMSTRONG AND GEORGE HINCAPIE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 222, which was submitted earlier today.

Mr. PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolution (S. Res. 222) honoring the victories of Team Discovery and American cyclists Lance Armstrong and George Hincapie in the 2005 Tour de France.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 223, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolution (S. Res. 223) supporting the goals and ideals of “National Life Insurance Awareness Month.” September 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.