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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God, we praise You and will tell of Your marvelous works. Even in a chaotic and confusing time, You continue to bring us joy. Our enemies cannot conquer You. They stagger and disappear.

Today, empower our lawmakers, silence the noises that distract them, enabling them to hear Your still, small voice. Lord, infuse them also with such courage that they will patiently endure even Your silence as they seek to fulfill Your purposes by their work. And, Lord, let Your peace and power prevail in our Nation and world.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today's elections were another horrible defeat—sorry—Tuesday's elections—maybe today's, too, who knows—but Tuesday's elections were another horrible defeat for MAGA extremism and another affirmation for the democratic agenda of jobs, infrastructure, and lowering costs for the middle class.

By now, Republicans need to admit there is a pretty clear pattern at play:

Ever since Donald Trump was elected President, the MAGA agenda has led to failure in big elections, in small elections, in red State elections, in blue State elections, and everything in between. And it shouldn't be any big mystery why MAGA candidates and MAGA issues keep turning out to be duds. Americans don't want hard-right extremists and the chaos they bring to govern this country. Americans don't support a MAGA agenda that has, at its bedrock, radical attacks on women's healthcare.

Americans want their elected leaders to choose bipartisanship, to focus on people's lives instead of cable news shows. Sadly, Republicans seem mightily impervious to the obvious truth that MAGA equals disaster for America and for their party.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, and there is much more to do here in Congress right now that will demand exactly the kind of bipartisanship Americans have made clear they want. In a little over a week, the Federal Government will shut down if Congress does not come together to pass a bipartisan extension of funding.

Today, I am taking the first procedural step for the Senate to move forward on a legislative vehicle we can use next week to pass a temporary extension to avoid a government shutdown. Over the next few days, Democrats will continue talking to Republicans about finding a path forward and avoiding a shutdown that both sides support, and I earnestly hope we can reach agreement sooner rather than later.

No matter how negotiations evolve over the next week, one thing is not going to change: The only way—the only way—let me say it a third time—the only way we avoid a shutdown is with bipartisan cooperation, just as it was true in September, and it will be true in the future.

I implore Speaker JOHNSON and our House Republican colleagues to learn

- This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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from the fiasco of a month ago: Hard-right proposals, hard-right slashing cuts, hard-right poison pills that have zero support from Democrats will only make a shutdown more likely. I hope they don't go down that path in the week to come.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on nominations, earlier this week, I am proud to say—really proud to say—that the Senate majority confirmed the hundredth woman to the Federal bench since President Biden took office, and I am equally proud to say it was the 150th judge overall.

Today, the Senate will hit two more significant milestones. After we confirm Monica Almadani and Brandy McMillion today, this Senate majority will have confirmed 50 Black judges and 100 people of color to the bench. Democrats are making our courts look more like America. This majority has confirmed more women, more Black people, more people of color to the bench than any full first term of any previous President. That is a record to be proud of.

Under President Trump, just 16 percent of judicial nominees were people of color. Under President Biden and this Senate majority, 100 of the now more than 150 judges have been people of color.

And yesterday, the Senate confirmed Ramon Reyes as a district judge for the Eastern District of New York. Judge Reyes is now the only male Federal judge of Puerto Rican descent and the second Hispanic man to ever sit on the Eastern District. Judge Reyes is a truly outstanding jurist who will be an excellent addition to the Eastern District. I was proud to recommend his nomination to President Biden and even prouder to see him confirmed yesterday.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, on our AI Insight Forum, yesterday, the Senate held our fifth and sixth bipartisan AI Insight Forums. Both AI Insight Forums were a huge success. We learned a lot; we had a lot of good discussions; we all left with a better understanding of the ways AI is already reshaping our world.

Our Elections and Democracy AI Insight Forum was especially informative. It is the area that requires the most immediate action because the 2024 elections are fast approaching, and we know there have already been—and always have been—bad actors trying to jaundice our elections. But we agreed, we agreed in the forum, that AI will be a dramatic force multiplier for the spread of disinformation.

We also agreed that government can't alone act to create guardrails to protect our elections in the age of AI. I was proud to see three major companies in the room during the AI Insight Forum—Meta, Microsoft, and Google—come out and say they supported legislation to create these guardrails.

We also agreed that we need to act quickly to secure our democracy in the

age of AI because time is of the essence ahead of next year's elections. It may be the thing we have to do first when it comes to legislating and creating guardrails in AI.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on the Supreme Court, the American people are experiencing a severe crisis of confidence in the integrity of the highest Court in all the land. Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee is taking an important step to restore confidence in the Supreme Court by voting to authorize subpoenas to Harlan Crow and Leonard Leo, who have used their immense power to gain undisclosed access—undisclosed access—to Supreme Court Justices.

I support Chairman DURBIN and the Judiciary Committee's decision to authorize these subpoenas because Americans are sick of reading in the paper that rich MAGA extremists are using their yachts and jets and gifts to pal around with the Supreme Court and doing so largely in secret. These previous undisclosed reports of lavish gifts suggest there is a two-tiered system of justice, and that needs to be fixed.

Americans know there is something shady going on when ultrawealthy MAGA extremists can basically buy face time with the Justices, who then turn around and overturn Roe v. Wade, gut affirmative action, block student debt relief, and green-light discrimination against LGBTQ Americans. The same millionaires—billionaires—who are giving gifts and giving trips to these Justices are the very same people pushing a whole lot of this agenda with the Supreme Court, and, whoa, lo and behold, the Supreme Court does it.

The bottom line is, at the very least, the appearance of this kind of impropriety needs to stop, and Americans need to learn more. And the Senate is well within its right to look under the hood to ensure we can increase transparency, which these subpoenas would do.

I support the Judiciary Committee's vote to authorize these subpoenas, and I thank Chairman DURBIN and my Democratic colleagues on the committee for their work.

REMEMBERING LIZ MOYNIHAN

Mr. President, now on Liz Moynihan, this week, New York lost one of its talented figures, one of its brightest minds, one of its most radiant spirits—Liz Moynihan—who passed away Tuesday evening. I had the immense joy of knowing her for many, many wonderful years, the partner to my old mentor, Senator Moynihan, here in the Senate.

Senator Moynihan may have been the one in the spotlight, but everyone knew there would be no Daniel without a Liz, who was not just a lifelong partner but also his top adviser, his best advocate, and, arguably, the best political strategist. To borrow a phrase attributed to another powerful New York woman, “behind every great man is a greater woman.” And that was certainly true for Liz.

Liz Moynihan was someone always who preferred to operate outside the

limelight but was always able to command the attention of Presidents, Senators, ambassadors, and mayors, and even archeologists, having discovered on her own the gardens of the Mughal Emperor Babur, while living in India.

In short, Liz Moynihan was a virtuoso in so many ways. She never held office herself. Yet she made the careers of so many—most of all, her husband's—possible. May she rest in peace after a wonderful, full, and rich life, dedicated to making this country better.

My condolences to my dear friend Laura and all of the Moynihan family and everyone whose lives she touched over the years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. This weekend, with parades and gatherings, solemn ceremonies and phone calls to loved ones, America will mark Veterans Day by expressing our gratitude to the men and women who have served our Nation in the Armed Forces.

But Veterans Day is much more than a once-a-year observation. It is a reminder of our daily obligation to honor their service, uphold our promises to care for them when they come home, and do everything we can to equip those defending our Nation today and tomorrow for success.

So, today, I am reminded of some letters I have saved in my archives. They are letters my father sent home to my mother from his own service in Patton's army in 1945.

With Nazi Germany on the ropes, with peace within reach, my dad was already seeing firsthand the sorts of threats that would define the next half century of American history. In the parts of his letters that made it past Army censors, he told us how the Russians were going to be a big problem.

Well, today, America faces threats every bit as grave. Like those of the 1940s, our adversaries today aren't being shy about their efforts to win the next half century of competition with America and the West. As one recent analysis summed it up, Russia, China, and Iran are “working to end the world order that has prevailed for three generations under American leadership”—“under American leadership.”

This didn't happen by accident. The Western order of peace and freedom was delivered by the sacrifices of American servicemembers like my father and preserved by generations of brave men and women in uniform ever since.

Right now, we have an obligation to those servicemembers, to our allies, and to the American people to behave like the world-leading power we actually are. We have a duty to invest seriously in American strength. It is time to offer a clear strategy for victory against Russia and then deliver the resources Ukraine needs to achieve it right now.

Putin is not deterred and his imperial ambitions do not end at Ukraine's border with the NATO alliance. If the United States abandons our support for Ukraine's resistance, we risk yet another generation of American forces being veterans of war in Europe.

It is time to get serious about deterring Iran, the world's leading sponsor of terrorism and the leading sponsor of violence against American service-members in Iraq and Syria.

I welcomed yesterday's strike on an Iranian facility in Syria, but it will probably take more than striking ammunition warehouses to restore the deterrence the Biden administration's policies have actually squandered.

It is time to redouble our efforts to equip allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific to raise the cost of further aggression from communist China.

And, as I have said repeatedly, it is long past time to make commonsense policy changes to address our southern border crisis that has required U.S. servicemembers to help Border Patrol maintain order.

These are the tasks before us, and they will not get any easier to address the longer we wait.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now, on another matter, for 3 years, the Biden administration's radical climate agenda has laid siege to affordable American energy and American consumer choice: slashed development of abundant domestic energy reserves, soaring prices for gas and heating oil, and a thicket of new regulations from unelected bureaucrats—from construction permitting to home appliances.

As the President's policies made life harder for working Americans, the Democrats took the administration's green obsession on the road. Special Climate Envoy John Kerry went to China hoping to treat climate goals as a "free standing" issue from our major strategic competition. Not surprisingly, the PRC saw things differently, and Chairman Xi stated publicly that China had no plans—none—to stop increasing its carbon emissions for at least another 7 years.

Meanwhile, the Governor of California took his own trip to Beijing and pledged to PRC officials that "regardless of what happens nationally, sub-nationally, you have a partner in California."

Well, they sure do. In fact, the supply chains for some of our coastal liberals' favorite green fashions, like electric vehicles, run directly through China. Close to 75 percent of lithium batteries, as well as 70 percent of our cathodes and anodes required to produce these batteries, come from China. The PRC holds more than 50 percent of the processing and refining capacity for critical minerals like cobalt.

By all relevant measures, the United States lags dangerously behind; but earlier this year, the Biden administration decided to make bringing these critical supply chains home even more

difficult by waiving "Buy American" requirements for the materials used to make electric vehicle chargers.

Apparently, the administration is so desperate to force its radical climate agenda that it is willing to enrich America's single biggest strategic adversary to get there. Washington Democrats so badly want to force working Americans to drive blue States' millionaires' favorite electric cars that they are willing to cut communist China in on the profits.

Fortunately, the Senate had an opportunity yesterday to set things straight. Thanks to the leadership of Senator RUBIO, a bipartisan majority voted to block the Biden administration's waiver policy using the Congressional Review Act. Apparently, the President's radical climate agenda is too radical for several Members of his own party. Hopefully, he will listen to them soon.

TRIBUTE TO MARK HANEY

Now, Mr. President, on one final matter, hard-working men and women in Kentucky have been in the business of growing the food that feeds our Nation for centuries. When it comes to supporting these farmers, there is no organization that has had a greater impact on the agricultural community than the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation.

Mark Haney, the farm bureau's longest serving president and a proud farmer himself, has played an important role in preserving our Commonwealth's agricultural heritage and recruiting the next generation of young producers. This year, the farm bureau bids Mark a warm farewell as he prepares to step down, closing out 15 successful years as president and over three decades on the board.

Nearly 75,000 farms back home help keep dinner plates full all across the country, and for the better part of this century, they have trusted Mark to lead them through the good times and the bad from adapting to ever-evolving redtape from Washington to helping farm families recover and rebuild after devastating storms to navigating a once-in-a-generation pandemic.

Personally, I have leaned on Mark for his counsel on the challenges that face rural America; and having worked with him for decades, I am confident this is not our final goodbye. Mark is sure to be an invaluable asset to Kentucky's agricultural community and the organization he loves well into the future.

So Elaine and I extend our warm wishes to our good friend Mark and his wife, Marlene, on his well-deserved retirement.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

LABOR REGULATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as I have said before, when it comes to the actions of government, it is often legislation that grabs the biggest headlines. But it is equally important to focus on what a Presidential administration is doing with its regulatory power—something I was reminded of again last week when I signed on to a letter headed by Senator CASSIDY on the Biden administration's proposed new overtime rule. Because in the modern regulatory state, Presidents have a tremendous amount of power to affect our economy and Federal policy through regulation.

Today, I would like to take a couple of minutes to talk about some labor regulations coming out of the Biden administration that are likely to prove detrimental to workers, business owners, and our economy.

Let me start, as I mentioned, with the Biden administration's proposed new overtime rule. This proposal would impose a 55-percent increase in the exemption threshold for providing overtime pay for covered employees.

Currently, employers are required to pay covered employees making less than \$35,568 per year overtime if they work more than 40 hours per week. Under the Biden administration's proposed new rule, employers would be required to pay overtime to covered employees making less than \$55,068. As I said, a massive 55-percent increase in the exemption threshold.

So what would be the effects of this proposed rule? It would likely result in some combination of higher prices, fewer job opportunities, and lower base pay for employees because employers—and I am thinking particularly of small businesses that are always going to be hit hardest by regulations like this—are going to be forced to look for ways to offset what could be a substantial increase in costs.

Indeed, many small businesses will have to find some way of offsetting this cost increase if they want to stay profitable. So businesses large and small are likely to compensate either by increasing prices on their goods or services, reducing the number of positions that they have available, or lowering the base pay to create room to pay overtime wages. Needless to say, none of these are attractive options for workers, consumers, or businesses.

Consumers are currently stretched to their limit with price hikes in the Biden economy, and lower base pay or fewer available positions are not attractive options for American workers.

By the way, you don't have to take my word for it on that lower base pay. The head of President Biden's own Council of Economic Advisers has previously noted:

The costs of increase [overtime] coverage would ultimately be borne by workers as employers set base wages taking expected overtime pay into account.

It would be nice if this were the only bad labor rule coming out of the Biden administration, but it is not. Among

other bad regulations, there is also the independent contractor rule, which the Biden Labor Department is likely to finalize soon. It is referred to as the “independent contractor rule,” but in many ways, that is a misnomer because this rule is likely to substantially reduce the number of independent contractors.

How? By replacing the previous administration’s independent contractor rule, which would have provided clear guidelines for determining whether a worker classifies as an independent contractor, with a vague, sweeping new rule that could end up with many workers being reclassified as employees.

Independent contractors, who range from computer programmers to freelance editors to Uber and Lyft drivers, generally value independent contracting thanks to things like the flexibility and opportunity that this path provides.

Indeed, a 2017 survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that fewer than 1 in 10 independent contractors would prefer traditional employee status. But thanks to the Biden administration, many of them may be forced into employee status.

The rule will threaten workers in the gig economy, which is made up of platforms like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, and TaskRabbit, that allow workers to pursue full-time work with a platform or simply augment their income from a regular 9-to-5 position.

The bad ideas don’t end with the independent contractor rule. There is also the joint employer rule the National Labor Relations Board recently finalized—yet another move from the Biden administration to use the power of the Federal Government to advantage unions.

The joint employer rule substantially changes the standard of what constitutes a joint employer, which comes into play in a major way with franchising. To put this in practical terms, this rule means that companies could end up being considered joint employers of employees at franchised locations of their business, which could force both the company and the local franchise owners to negotiate with unions, or make both the company and local franchise owners liable for unfair labor practices that potentially only one party is responsible for.

The result is likely to be that companies cut back on franchising or increase oversight or control of their franchisees, which would disrupt one of the most accessible paths to business ownership for Americans looking to run their own businesses.

In comments after the new joint employer rule was proposed, the International Franchise Association noted:

The proposed rule will needlessly upend the franchise business model and close the door to opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Americans, especially women, people of color, veterans, and first-time business owners.

But, apparently, that doesn’t matter to the Biden administration, as long as union bosses are benefiting.

On the economic front, President Biden is perhaps most famous for helping to kick off the worst inflation crisis in 40 years with the so-called American Rescue Plan. But as these rules and regulations demonstrate, the President is continuing to build on that negative economic legacy with regulations that will diminish economic opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs and likely continue to drive up prices for consumers.

In other words, business as usual in the Biden administration: The President imposes his Big Government policies, and the American people end up paying the price.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. 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.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, Saturday, November 11, is the anniversary of the end of World War I. Today we know it as Veterans Day.

On Veterans Day, we honor everyone who has worn the uniform of the United States of America. Alabama is proud that the Veterans Day tradition started in Birmingham, AL, in the aftermath of World War II. A local veteran named Raymond Weeks recognized the need for a day honoring all of our veterans.

In 1947, Raymond Weeks petitioned the Army Chief of Staff, a general named Dwight D. Eisenhower, for a national Veterans Day. Seven years later, General Eisenhower was President and signed it into law.

Alabama is proud of Raymond Weeks. We are proud to be home to nearly 400,000 veterans. And every Veterans Day, I am proud to come to this floor to tell my colleagues about a few of our veterans in Alabama.

The first I will mention today is Ron Skoneki from Montgomery, AL. He is the son of a Polish immigrant. He enlisted in the Air Force about as soon as he could right after graduating from high school. He served in Thailand during the Vietnam war. He helped repair and maintain aircraft for a strong defense. After 33 years of service, Lieutenant Colonel Skoneki retired. But he wanted to continue to serve, so he joined Alabama’s wing of the Civil Air Patrol in Montgomery. He then served another 16 years helping to support the U.S. Air Force in a civilian capacity. Now at 87 years old, he is just as proud of his time wearing this uniform as he has ever been. And he should be.

I would also like to tell the Senate about CSM Joe Godwin of Mobile, AL.

He wanted to join the military ever since he was 14 years old. By the time he was 17, he couldn’t wait anymore; he got his dad’s permission to join the Army.

He went on to serve in three wars: World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. He helped guard and transport Nazi prisoners during the Nuremberg trials.

Today, Joe is 94 years old. When people tell him he is a hero, he says that the real heroes are the ones who didn’t make it back. He is a humble man. I think they are all heroes, anyone who served, and we ought to thank them today, tomorrow, and every day.

Finally, I would like to talk a little about SGT David Henry of Warrior, AL. Sergeant Henry has served as a firefighter and a paramedic. These experiences gave him skills that he used as a medic in the Iraq war.

His first deployment came when his son was only 6 months old. Sergeant Henry deployed again to the Middle East when his son was 3. He had to sacrifice to be an ocean away from his family during those crucial times of his son’s growing up. He had to explain to a 3-year-old why Dad was going to be gone and he didn’t know when he was coming back.

A lot of families know what that is like. Our heroes in uniform often serve as a family, and so, on Veterans Day, we thank their families, too, for their service. They are also making a huge sacrifice for our country.

Today, Sergeant Henry is back in sweet home Alabama. We are deeply grateful for his service to Alabama and to America.

Colonel Skoneki, Sergeant Major Godwin, and Sergeant Henry are just three examples of the 400,000 heroes who call Alabama their home.

The writer G.K. Chesterton once said:

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.

You can see that in the lives of these veterans in Alabama. Our veterans fought because they believe in this United States of America. They believed America was worth fighting for and even, many, dying for. They laid down their lives for the people of this country, for millions of people they don’t even know.

Everything we have in this country depends on a military that is very strong. Our economy, our security, and our way of life depends on our military.

President Ronald Reagan summed it up best when he said:

Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they’ve suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us.

This Veterans Day and this Veterans Day weekend, I hope we will remember the price of freedom and those who have paid that ultimate price.

To all of our veterans, thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice to ensure America remains a

country of freedom and opportunity for all of the many generations to come.

NOMINATION OF MONICA RAMIREZ ALMADANI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Monica Ramirez Almadani to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in La Mirada, CA, Ms. Ramirez Almadani received her A.B. from Harvard University in 2001 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 2004. She then clerked for Judge Warren J. Ferguson on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 2004 to 2005. Ms. Ramirez Almadani began her legal career in 2005 at the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, practicing immigration and civil rights litigation for 4 years, including successfully arguing before the Ninth Circuit. She then served the Justice Department for 6 years in a variety of roles, including counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, deputy chief of staff to the Deputy Attorney General, and assistant U.S. attorney—AUSA—in the U.S. attorney's office for the Central District of California. As an AUSA, she prosecuted child pornography, human trafficking, narcotics, immigration fraud, public corruption, and other serious crimes.

In 2015, then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris appointed Ms. Ramirez Almadani Special Assistant Attorney General to oversee the California Justice Department's Criminal Division and the Division of Recidivism Reduction and Reentry. Then, in 2017, she joined a large law firm as special counsel, focusing on white collar criminal defense, internal investigations, and complex commercial litigation, in addition to pro bono immigration work. She then became codirector of the University of California, Irvine School of Law's Immigrant Rights Clinic from 2019 to 2021. She currently serves as the president and CEO of Public Counsel, the largest public interest law firm in the country.

The American Bar Association rated Ms. Ramirez Almadani "well qualified" to serve on the Central District of California. The late Senator Feinstein strongly supported her nomination, as does Senator PADILLA.

I will be supporting this outstanding nominee, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION OF BRANDY R. MCMILLION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Ms. Brandy McMillion, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Born in Dayton, OH, Ms. McMillion received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Michigan and her law degree from George Washington University Law School. She then began her career as an associate, working for Pepper Hamilton LLP, Perkins Coie LLP, and Bryan Cave LLP, where she gained experience in labor and employment matters, intellectual property

claims, and corporate financial services transactions.

Following her 9 years in private practice, Ms. McMillion joined the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan in 2015, where she has served in a variety of roles, most recently as the chief of the general crimes unit. In that position, she is responsible for prosecuting firearms offenses, carjackings, and drug trafficking offenses in addition to supervising and training AUSAs and support staff. The American Bar Association rated Ms. McMillion as unanimously "well qualified," and she enjoys the strong support of Senators Stabenow and Peters.

Taken together, Ms. McMillion's courtroom experience, management credentials, and knowledge of the district to which she is nominated make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF BRANDY R. MCMILLION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to strongly support the nomination of Brandy McMillion, whom President Biden nominated to serve as the U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Ms. McMillion is an outstanding nominee with extensive experience in both civil and criminal cases. She will be a great judge because she has always been committed to the law and has the right values, certainly.

From the time she was 6 years old, growing up in Ohio, Ms. McMillion wanted to be a lawyer. It was her dream, and she never wavered from it.

Ms. McMillion was raised in Michigan since she was 12 years old. She earned engineering degrees at the University of Michigan, and then she earned her law degree from George Washington University Law School.

Ms. McMillion then worked in private practice, where she gained significant experience in law and in labor and employment, intellectual property, and financial services.

But she didn't stay away from her adopted State for long. Since 2015, she has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, and, last year, she became chief of the office's general crimes unit, where she prosecutes offenses including bank robberies, gun crimes, and Federal crimes against children.

So it is no surprise that the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously voted Ms. McMillion as "well qualified."

When she is not at work, she spends a lot of time behind the wheel, she says, driving her kids to all their sporting events and other activities. "Mom CEO" is what she likes to say.

She is also active in her community. She is a very involved member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She also mentors moms through the organization Warrior Women Against Poverty, which aims to change lives one woman at a time. Ms. McMillion knows better than anyone how the right support, at the right time, can change a woman's future.

The Senate, I hope, is going to strongly confirm Ms. McMillion to the Federal bench. I know that she is someone who is thoughtful and experienced. She will serve the Eastern District well. We thank everyone for the vote yesterday—the cloture vote—to move her now to her final vote, and I urge my colleagues to support this outstanding nominee to be on the Federal bench.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON ALMADANI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Almadani nomination?

Ms. SINEMA. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire Mrs. SHAHEEN is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Durbin	Manchin
Bennet	Fetterman	Markey
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Menendez
Booker	Graham	Merkley
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Butler	Heinrich	Murray
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cardin	Hirono	Padilla
Carper	Kaine	Peters
Casey	Kelly	Reed
Coons	King	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Sanders
Duckworth	Lujan	Schatz

Schumer	Tester	Warren
Sinema	Van Hollen	Welch
Smith	Warner	Whitehouse
Stabenow	Warnock	Wyden
NAYS—44		
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Britt	Hoeven	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kennedy	Schmitt
Collins	Lankford	Cornyn
Cornyn	Lee	Cotton
Cotton	Lummis	Crapo
Crapo	Marshall	Cruz
Cruz	McConnell	Daines
Daines	Moran	Fischer
Ernst	Mullin	Thune
Fischer	Murkowski	Tillis

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Scott (SC)	Vance
Cramer	Shafeen	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the McMillion nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McMillion nomination?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 306 EX.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	

Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Britt	Hoeven	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kennedy	Schmitt
Collins	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marschall	Tillis
Cruz	Daines	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Murkowski	Vance
Cramer	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

REMOVING EXTRANEOUS LOOP-HOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Peter Welch, Angus S. King, Jr., Brian Schatz, Mark Kelly, Tim Kaine, Thomas R. Carper, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons.

Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, November 9, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled roll-call vote.

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

VETERANS DAY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, days before he died, Frederick Knefler composed a letter of instruction to be read once he was gone. There was, he wrote, to be no memorial service or expensive coffin. His funeral should be private and simple, attended only by a handful of fellow Hoosier veterans. When it was lowered into the ground, his body should be wrapped in an American flag.

Republics such as ours are uncommon. It is of great value for us, its citizens, to recall our blessings, and it is our heroes who provide that reminder. Although he was born an ocean away from America, Frederick Knefler dedicated his life to defending those blessings. He was one of those heroes. As a contemporary remarked after his death, "No descendant of a Mayflower Pilgrim was ever more wholly or intensely American than he."

As we mark Veterans Day, his story is worth sharing. He was a Jewish immigrant; one of the soldiers who saved our Union; a private citizen who spent his final days building a still-inspiring monument to their example.

Before he ever set foot in America, though, as a teenager, he had already fought in a civil war, the Hungarian Revolution. Its failure and the sorry state of liberty across Europe inspired Knefler to look elsewhere for freedom. He found it across the Atlantic. He and his family arrived in New York and then settled in Indiana in 1850. There, they were among the earliest members of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, the city's first and today its oldest synagogue family.

Knefler fell in love with America. He embraced its laws, customs, and institutions. He even taught himself English by reading Shakespeare. Then he moved on to military history and tactics.

In 1861, when the Southern States deserted the Union, Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to form an army to bring them back. Knefler, whose adoration of America was equaled only by his hatred of slavery, answered the call. He vowed he wouldn't do a day's work until the war was over and the Nation reunited.

True to his word, he left his job as a clerk and enlisted in the spring of 1861, after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and he didn't return to civilian life

until the summer of 1865, after the surrender at Appomattox Court House. He joined Indiana's 11th Regiment, serving as lieutenant to Lew Wallace, and then was promoted to colonel of the 79th Indiana Infantry.

Knefler's language was notoriously gruff. In fact, Governor Oliver Morton was so offended by his profanity that he was hesitant to offer him a military appointment.

He was a man of strong opinions. "A talk with him was like a stiff breeze," a friend once said. His men labored greatly under relentless discipline and constant drilling but came to admire their leader. And he whipped the 79th into a formidable fighting machine.

From their organization in Indianapolis in 1862 till they mustered out in Nashville in 1865 as part of the Armies of the Ohio and then the Cumberland, these Hoosiers saw action:

At the deadly Union victory at Stones River, which helped embolden Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation; at the disaster at Chickamauga, which sent a damaged Army of the Cumberland into retreat; with William Tecumseh Sherman, as he marched through Georgia, captured Atlanta, and cut off Confederate supplies, leading to Abraham Lincoln's reelection and the South's defeat.

But it was in November 1863 from the foot of Missionary Ridge that the 79th ascended into history. You see, at that time, the Army of the Cumberland was cornered and cut off in Chattanooga. Winter neared; rations were low; soldiers were starving and disheartened. The Confederate Army arrayed its artillery and waited for the Yankees to surrender. Jefferson Davis himself even arrived to take in the scene and predicted that victory was near.

As Knefler recalled, the "gift of prophecy" was not the Confederate president's strong point. Desperate to break the siege, General Joseph Hooker's men climbed and took Lookout Mountain on November 24. On the following afternoon, the 25th, Union soldiers mounted an offensive, and they cleared the rebels from the base of Missionary Ridge.

Then, without orders, they spontaneously—Knefler said they were guided by a "mighty impulse"—they spontaneously followed the retreating enemy up the steep ridge. When the Confederates looked down, they saw a flood of blue rising up. The Rebels unleashed shells, shot, and rifle balls down the mountain. Soon the entire ridge was enveloped in a cloud of gray smoke, shooting off lightning bolts of musket fire. The 79th, joined by another Indiana regiment, the 86th, charged up through it.

Through the fierce fighting and incredible determination, they took Missionary Ridge. They sent the enemy into retreat, and they broke its lock on Chattanooga.

That defeat heralded, as a rebel lamented, the death knell of the Confederacy. General Ulysses S. Grant later

recalled that Frederick Knefler was the first field officer to reach the top of Missionary Ridge.

At the conclusion of the conflict, Knefler was breveted as Brigadier General, the highest ranking Jewish officer to fight in the Civil War. This Hoosier returned to Indianapolis. He settled into private life. He practiced law. He advocated for fellow veterans.

Fittingly, the final years of his life were dedicated to the construction of a monument to them in Indianapolis.

In 1895, when the long-discussed project reached an impasse, Indiana appointed Knefler to lead the board of regents responsible for rescuing the project. Knefler threw himself obsessively into the work, raising money, scrutinizing design plans, fixating on details, dealing with temperamental artists.

When a sculptor complained the model of a figure representing "peace" was not wearing an overcoat, as he intended, Knefler reminded him that when the Union men came home in 1865, it was summer. "Who ever heard of a soldier wearing a big overcoat in July?" he snapped at the sculptor.

Because of Knefler's exertions and urgency—he desperately wanted the monument finished while veterans of the Civil War remained—the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was dedicated on May 15, 1902. On that day, bands played, battle flags waved, soldiers marched, statesmen delivered speeches, and crowds wept at the foot of a towering column, built of Indiana limestone, of course.

Among the thousands of attendees, Knefler was absent. He had died the year before. But in the days leading up to his death, stricken with disease, he worked to honor his promise that the monument would be "as great a work of art as the world ever saw." He didn't live to see it complete, but that work of art would have been neither great nor completed without him.

Folks, we don't celebrate Veterans Day in order to venerate war but, rather, to reflect on its horrible cost. But we also honor our veterans like Frederick Knefler on this holiday for the same reason we build monuments to them, doing these things reminds us what is precious, and that what is precious is fragile.

For over two centuries, this Nation, however imperfectly, has been a rare outpost of freedom, an outpost of tolerance in a world where both, throughout history, were the exception, not the norm.

Look to the monument Knefler worked so hard to raise, the focal point of Indiana's capital city. On its crown sits a brown statue of Lady Victory, her arm outstretched, the torch of liberty in her hand. Below stand statues of the Hoosier soldiers and sailors, who risked and gave their lives to protect it, to preserve the sacred pledge that all men are created equal.

This Nation, with its singular values, has endured thanks to our veterans.

Men and women—to use Knefler's words—of "heroic mold," who have "held it with fire and steel."

So on Veterans Day, we give them our deepest gratitude and our pledge, our pledge to do our part to guarantee what they have held is never lost.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 222, Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Elizabeth Warren, Sherrod Brown, Ron Wyden, Tim Kaine, Raphael G. Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Duckworth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ana de Alba, of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Fetterman	Murray
Bennet	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Blumenthal	Hassan	Padilla
Booker	Hickenlooper	Peters
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Butler	Kaine	Rosen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Stabenow
Durbin	Murphy	Tester

Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock

Warren
Welch
Whitehouse

Wyden

NAYS—42

Boozman
Braun
Britt
Budd
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer

Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hooven
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Manchin
McConnell
Moran

Mullin
Paul
Ricketts
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso
Blackburn
Cramer

Heinrich
Marshall
Murkowski

Rubio
Scott (SC)
Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UKRAINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, recently, I had the opportunity to meet with a group of religious leaders from Ukraine. They represented multiple Christian denominations, plus Islam and Judaism. They spoke of the role faith is playing in the resilience and determination we have seen from the Ukrainian people.

One of the religious leaders who spoke to me was Dr. Ivan Rusyn. He is president of the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary. His seminary trains evangelical ministers from various Protestant backgrounds. It was hit by six Russian rockets when Russia invaded.

Dr. Rusyn lives in Bucha, and we all see that as being infamous by the atrocities that were committed against civilians by the Russian occupiers and also some of those people being brought before the world court for inhumane treatment. In fact, Russian soldiers even occupied Dr. Rusyn's home.

Under the Soviet Union, Ivan and his family had to practice their faith in secret because evangelicals were imprisoned if caught.

In today's Ukraine, he and fellow Ukrainians are free to practice their faith. In fact, he told me that the relief work his seminary has been doing since the full-scale invasion has been bringing more and more people to the church.

Dr. Rusyn is a humble, soft-spoken man with a clear and powerful message. He said that in the midst of war, it is sometimes hard to feel the presence of God, but in coming to the United States with this delegation and meeting people who care about the suffering of the Ukrainian people, he felt God's presence more than ever. His strong faith in God and his deep concern for his fellow Ukrainians impressed me.

Dr. Rusyn also told me about the persecution of his counterparts in the Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. That is about 20 percent of Ukraine. Religious leaders are kidnapped, and evangelicals are singled out for persecution just like in the days of the old Soviet Union. A Ukrainian priest among the group told me that most of the faith leaders sitting in my office are on Putin's hit list to be singled out for persecution or death if they fall into the hands of the Russian military.

Under Vladimir Putin, Russia has passed a law as recently as 2016 requiring all religious organizations and churches to be registered with the Russian Government. The law bans what the law calls "missionary activities" like preaching, like praying, like disseminating religious materials outside of officially approved sites within Russia.

According to a special report by the Institute for the Study of War, Russia has used this 2016 law to prosecute American Baptists and Pentecostal missionaries operating in Russia and also to outlaw most Mormon missionary work and to burn foreign-distributed Bibles not properly registered with the state.

According to this report by the Institute for the Study of War, the Russian state has also persecuted Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, and Orthodox church groups that are not affiliated with the Russian state.

Russia's Prosecutor-General's Office declared four evangelical Christian groups as "undesirable" organizations as recently as 2021. Now, that effectively had banned these organizations from operating within Russia.

Russian authorities in occupied Melitopol raided a Ukrainian evangelical pastor's home in August 2022 and accused the pastor of being associated with the same undesirable organizations that Russian authorities banned in Russia in 2021.

The former head of Russian-occupied Donetsk declared in May of 2015 that Ukrainian Orthodox Church members, Greek Catholics, and evangelical Christians were "sectarians" and that occupation authorities would only recognize the Russian Orthodox Church, Catholicism, Islam, and Judaism.

The Russian Orthodox Church plays a role in the Russian state that is hard for Americans to understand. Most importantly, with all the killing going on in Ukraine, the head of the Russian Or-

thodox Church has blessed that war by particularly saying Putin is doing the right thing.

In our country, we know, under our Constitution, the Founding Fathers prohibited the establishment of a state church and enshrined a right to the free exercise of religion in the First Amendment. This was done to allow religion to flourish independent of our government.

Now, by contrast and great contrast, the Russian Orthodox Church has always been not just a state church but an instrument going back as far as the tsars of Russia. Under the Soviet Union, it became an instrument of the KGB, the Russian secret police.

In fact, the current patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church was a KGB agent. As I have indicated already in these remarks, that individual has blessed this war, and with his being a KGB agent, it is no wonder he is so close to Putin, who also worked for the KGB. That same Russian patriarch has vocally, as I am saying again, supported the brutal invasion and has told Russian soldiers they will be absolved of all sins should they die in the Ukraine military operation.

Because the Russian Orthodox Church acts as a tool of the Russian state, many Orthodox churches in Ukraine have joined the restored Independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Some church officials in Ukraine who remained loyal to Moscow have been documented to act as agents of influence and espionage on behalf of the Putin regime, so naturally some have been arrested by Ukrainian authorities.

One Ukrainian Orthodox priest who was captured by the Russian military shortly after the full-scale invasion back in February 2022 tells how his captors tortured and interrogated him, demanding to know what part of the Ukrainian secret service he worked for—you know, assuming that they do in Ukraine like they do in Russia: that the church might be part of some government scheme to narrow freedoms or whatever, for that matter. These Russians assumed that because their priests are tied to a successor to the KGB, Ukrainian priests, then, must be agents of the Ukrainian state, which is not the case.

The Ukrainian Government also canceled a lease with the Russian-affiliated Orthodox Church at the Kyiv Lavra Monastery—a national historic landmark owned by the Ukrainian state right there in the center of the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv. The lease cancellation led to false reports of the Ukrainian Government's persecuting Christians. However, 2 weeks after the Russian-aligned church officials left, a member of my staff visited this same monastery and received a blessing from a Ukrainian Orthodox priest. So I can confirm that Christian services are still performed there; only now it is in the Ukrainian language.

Incidentally, the former Russian Orthodox head priest at the monastery

was apparently nicknamed “Mercedes” because he collected Mercedes cars. That is not the hobby you would expect of a lot of spiritual leaders.

Putin likes to pretend that Russia is some kind of defender of the Christian faith, but in reality, Russia is one of the most secular countries in the world.

The Soviet Union, as we know, was an atheist state, so most countries that share a Soviet past have lost much of their religious life. That is doubly true in Russia, where, according to a 2018 Pew Research poll, only 7 percent of the people attend weekly church services, only 18 percent of Russians pray daily, and only 16 percent feel that religion is very important in their lives.

By comparison, in Ukraine, these people are significantly more religious than Russians, with well over twice as many people attending weekly services at 17 percent, with 30 percent of the Ukrainians reportedly praying daily, and with 23 percent saying that religion is a very important part of their lives.

Russia has been designated by our own State Department as a “country of particular concern” and, according to that designation, is “engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom.”

By contrast, Ukraine has religious freedom, and there is no state church, so it is no wonder that Ukrainians are more active in their faith.

I was encouraged by Dr. Rusyn’s account of his own growing ministry. He also said he has contributed chaplains from his seminary to the military since the full-scale invasion—something that was not previously a tradition of Orthodox countries. As a result, evangelicals are particularly well represented as military chaplains. Now, I am sad to say, one of his students has already been lost while serving as a chaplain at the frontlines.

I am going to go back to this report by the Institute for the Study of War that I referenced earlier.

[T]he most common victims of Russian religious persecution after Ukrainian Orthodox are Protestants, particularly evangelical Baptists. Protestants of all denominations were the victims of 34 percent of the reported persecution events that [the Institute on the Study of War] observed. Baptists made up 13 percent of victims—the largest single group after Ukrainian Orthodox. . . . Russian forces’ persecution of Protestants is most intense in southern Ukraine. Protestants were the victims of 35 percent and 48 percent of the reported persecution events in occupied Kherson and Zaporizhia oblasts respectively. Protestants suffered two-thirds of the reported repression events in occupied Mariupol City.

The Institute for the Study of War report also cited an incident where Russian troops “commandeered a Kherson-based Ukrainian evangelical Baptist educational institute from March–November of 2022 and established a garrison and crematorium there to cremate killed Russian sol-

diers. The institute’s rector stated that Russian soldiers repeatedly harassed the Baptists, calling them ‘American spies,’ calling them ‘sectarians,’ and [calling them] ‘enemies of the Russian Orthodox people.’ One Russian officer reportedly told workers at the institute, ‘Evangelical believers like you should be completely destroyed . . . a simple shooting would be too easy for you. You need to be buried alive,’ and another Russian soldier reportedly said, ‘We will bury [Baptist] sectarians like you.’ Russian soldiers raided and closed another Baptist Church . . . in September 2022. Congregants reported that armed Russian soldiers interrupted their worship service and stated, ‘Your feet will not be here after referendum. We have only one faith, Orthodoxy.’”

Nearly 500 religious sites and spaces were damaged, destroyed, or looted during the first year of the Russian invasion. People of faith in Ukraine are suffering. Dr. Rusyn’s ask of Americans is a simple thing: “Please hear our cry.”

Toward the end of my meeting with the Russian faith leaders, the rabbi in the group made another ask of me. He said the Ukrainians need our prayers. This was echoed by other Ukrainian faith leaders in my office.

I agreed to keep the Ukrainian people in my prayers. I ask that my fellow Americans of faith also surround the Ukrainian people in prayer at this very difficult time. And I pray that they feel the very real presence of God amidst their suffering.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO GENE HORNER

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday afternoon here on the Senate floor. It is one of my favorite times. We have some new pages, so they are going to, I think, at a certain point, consider some of this their favorite time on the Senate floor. It is when I get to come out on the floor and talk about the Alaskan of the Week—the Alaskan of the Week.

I have been doing this for several years now. I try to get down here most weeks. I don’t make it every week. I have had a couple of weeks off. There is a lot going on here in the Senate, as many people know. But as we are heading into Veterans Day weekend, I am making sure that we reignite our “Alaskan of the Week” special for this weekend.

There are so many special Alaskans working to make our State the best State in this country. Some Senators might disagree, but, hey, we are all proud of our States.

I will tell you this, when it comes to veterans and patriotism, I am pretty sure my State tops the list of any State in the country. We have more veterans per capita than any State in America. Alaska Natives, a big part of our population, serve at higher rates in the military than any other ethnic

group in the country. Patriotism, military service, it is in our DNA.

I am getting on a plane here in about an hour with my wife Julie. We are heading home to celebrate Veterans Day.

Just looking back over several years, a lot of my Alaskans of the Week were veterans—100 percent—so it is not surprising that this one is as well.

As we head into Veterans Day weekend, I want to talk about a special veteran, a really special veteran—people are going to love this story—a Vietnam vet named Gene Horner. He is actually a bugler. He plays the trumpet and the bugle.

If you have gone to a military funeral in Alaska, chances are the man behind the bugle breathing out the 24 notes of “Taps”—the most poignant 24 notes of music ever played—is Gene Horner, our Alaskan of the Week.

Wherever he is and whatever he is doing, if he gets the call to play at a veteran’s funeral in Alaska, he grabs his instrument, jumps into his car, and Gene is there.

So who is Gene Horner, and how did he become known as the best “Taps” player in Alaska, and, I would say, the best “Taps” player in America?

A self-described, unruly teenager from Texas and California, Gene joined the Army when he was 17, in 1967.

It was go in the Army or get into more trouble; one or the other.

That is what Gene said. So he joined the Army.

By the way, many great veterans, many great Americans have started their service to America this way: Hey, join the Marines, join the Army, or you are going to jail. So he did that.

Gene was assigned a regular duty station in Alabama, and it was here that he was given the opportunity to play in his post band at his Army station in Alabama. While he considered himself a very “mediocre trumpet player,” Gene proved to be indispensable.

During the height of the Vietnam war, before he, himself, was deployed to Vietnam, he sounded “Taps” for 187 funerals throughout Alabama and the South in just 3 months. Think about that. That is a big reminder of the service our Vietnam generation did—187 funerals in just 3 months, 1 guy.

When Gene received his own orders to head to Vietnam in 1968, his route stopped through Anchorage, my hometown. It was August 1. The midnight Sun was out. It was sunny, 75 degrees. Anyone who has ever flown into Anchorage—which I highly recommend everybody watching do. Come on up. Visit our great State. You will love it. There is a point when you are coming in, you are flying over the mountains, the engines kind of silence themselves, you head to the ground, and you see the glaciers, the mountains.

Gene said to himself, when he was landing in Anchorage:

This is the last I’ll see of America.

Think about that. It is very poignant: Heading to Vietnam; he did not

think he was coming home. A lot of people didn't come home.

During his 6-hour layover on the ground in Anchorage to refuel before he went to Vietnam, he and his fellow soldiers sat at the airport bar. This is another great story. You can't make this up. After he sat down at the bar, the soon-to-be Alaska U.S. Senator Mike Gravel walked in and told the bartender:

Buy a drink for all these soldiers.

That is pretty cool, Senator for Alaska—about to become a Senator for Alaska, buys a round for the soldiers heading to Vietnam.

Gene thought to himself, If I live through this deployment, I am going to come back to Alaska. It is a pretty cool place; U.S. Senators buying you beers.

When he was in Vietnam and a battlefield memorial was required, Gene would fly out on a helicopter with a chaplain for the service. "Over there," he said, "I didn't know the names of half the people I played Taps for. I seldom knew their names [at all], but those 24 notes [in Taps] pulled on my heart all the same."

When Gene's Vietnam service ended 15 months later, he went to California, he said, in search of a beautiful woman he knew named Priscilla, whom he had met on his way to Vietnam. And like a good soldier, he accomplished the mission because Priscilla would later become his wife. Together, Gene stuck to the promise he had made for himself with Priscilla. They moved to Alaska in 1972. And Alaska, of course, benefited tremendously.

He joined the Carpenters Union and became a pilot driver, and his wife Priscilla was a CPA. They settled in the beautiful Mat-Su Valley. By the way, I will be heading there tomorrow and Saturday for Veterans Day services. They had a son. They had a nice life.

During this whole time, for 20 years, Gene, like so many veterans, did not talk about his service in Vietnam at all. Nobody he knew—he didn't talk to anybody about it. He kept it to himself. He did not want to relive the past.

It was not until 1999, during the funeral of a coworker and a close friend who served in World War II, that Gene took his trumpet back up and played "Taps" in 1999—the first time.

When he arrived at the funeral and asked: Hey, where is the bugler for the service, Gene was directed to a boom box—a boom box, just a recording. But as faith would have it, Gene had just picked up his trumpet from repair that day. He asked: Hey, instead of the boom box, can I sound "Taps" for my friend, the World War II veteran?

They said: Of course, do it.

Gene said this: It just goes against everything when I am at a funeral for a servicemember to leave "Taps" to a recording.

By the way, that is happening more and more as military bands get cut.

It was this experience that ignited Gene's passion for sounding "Taps" at

military funerals. Twenty years after his Vietnam service, 20 years since he had even talked about "Taps" and what he did in Vietnam, Gene began performing at veterans' funerals in Alaska and recruiting other trumpet players to join the ranks.

"It wasn't until I started playing Taps locally that I realized, you're never really out of the military," Gene said, "You are just one breath away from it. And every veteran deserves a live breath coming from a bugle [at his or her funeral]."

Playing "Taps" is emotional work, he said. You are not just sending off an individual veteran; you are sounding the call that has sent millions of veterans off to be buried for hundreds of years. You are sounding the mystic chords of memory that Abraham Lincoln spoke of:

[S]treching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this [great] land.

That is Abraham Lincoln.

Because of this, many buglers who have taken up this honor has said that "Taps" is the hardest 24 notes they will ever play, the hardest 24 notes you can play as a trumpeter. Gene has likely played them more times than anyone else in Alaska and—who knows—many more times than most people in America.

He said this:

Playing at Carnegie Hall would be nice. But for a trumpet player, I don't think there is a greater honor than sounding "Taps" for a soldier's final farewell.

Gene plays at dozens, sometimes hundreds, of funerals a year. He has logged in over 10,000 volunteer hours with the VA in Alaska. Let me repeat that, as we go into Veterans Day weekend: over 10,000 volunteer hours for the VA in Alaska. That is patriotism. That is patriotism.

He remembers all of them, but he has a distinct memory of sounding "Taps" at the funeral for a beloved young marine named Grant Fraser, one of the first Alaskans to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

LCpl. Grant Fraser was an actor who loved the works of Homer and Shakespeare. He was a mountain biker, a skier, a pianist, a SCUBA diver, a rock climber, a tennis player. He was a light-hearted, mischievous U.S. marine. After the Marines, he was planning on coming back to Anchorage, his hometown, to work as a paramedic with the fire department.

Shortly after 9/11, like so many patriotic young Americans across our Nation, Grant surprised his family and friends when he announced he was joining the Marines. He served with Echo Company, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, in Anchorage, my old unit.

The battalion was later deployed to Iraq in 2005, and it was there, on a mission in Anbar Province on August 3, 2005, that Grant Fraser was killed in action and made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. He was 22 years old, not much older than the pages right here.

I went to LCpl Grant Fraser's burial here at Arlington National Cemetery, and, I will tell you, it was the most moving burial I have ever been to. Everybody from the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps on down and many, many Alaskans came to that funeral.

But there was also a funeral service for Grant in Anchorage, and this is the funeral that Gene Horner said was the most moving funeral he had ever been to, of the hundreds that he has played "Taps" for. He said that, first of all, the funeral was packed. It was like the entire town of Anchorage showed up.

And, for him, it brought back memories of young men and women sacrificing their lives in foreign lands. It brought back all of those battlefield funerals he had done in Vietnam, that he had played for, and all the funerals he had played in Alabama and all the funerals he would play for in Anchorage. It brought back battlefields and violence and heroism and sacrifice.

But on that August day in Anchorage, like he did in Vietnam, like he had done for so many others in Alaska and in Vietnam and in Alabama, Gene was there for one man: the young marine hero LCpl Grant Fraser. So he got that feeling in his stomach as he was sounding "Taps," the one he always gets at funerals and burials when he is sounding "Taps," the one that travels to his chest and makes it swell. He picked up his American Heritage Field Trumpet, took a breath, and sounded "Taps" for this young marine.

So, Gene, as we are coming into Veterans Day in Alaska, I want to thank you for your great service; I want to thank you for being there for literally hundreds, if not thousands, of veterans in Alaska and across our Nation. I am going to actually see you tomorrow at an event in the valley. And, of course, congratulations on one of the biggest honors anyone can achieve: being our Alaskan of the Week. Semper fi, Gene. Happy Veterans Day. See you tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I first ask unanimous consent to use three easels rather than the two prescribed in Senate rules.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I am glad that I am rising after my colleague from Alaska because I am rising on behalf of a group of very special people and also in commemoration of three very special dates. The group of people are 364 nominations for military appointments who have been pending for months and months and months on the floor of the U.S. Senate; and I rise in their honor with the intention, in a few minutes, to begin offering unanimous consent motions so that they may finally be confirmed to the positions they have earned through their sacrifice in the uniform of this country.

I also rise to commemorate three special days: November 9, November 10, and November 11. November 9, today, is Military Day in Alabama, designated by Governor Kay Ivey about 10 days ago, recognizing the deep connection between Alabama and our Nation's military mission. Governor Ivey asked all who were veterans or in Active Duty to wear their uniforms today. She asked employers to encourage that to happen. And she said that this day—Thursday, November 9, 2023—in the State of Alabama should be a day where we commemorate our Active Duty and veterans.

When I saw that today had been designated Military Day in Alabama, I was interested in that, and I wondered whether that was the case in other States as well. It turns out, no, that it is not. I hope it might be a trend that other Governors pick up on in future years.

The second day that I want to acknowledge is tomorrow, November 10, which is the Marine Corps' 248th birthday. I offer this one with a little bit of parental pride because my oldest son was a marine infantry commander who is now a marine reservist.

The Marine Corps was founded on November 10, 1775, when, at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, there was enacted the creation of this corps of marines. And almost immediately, the effort began to recruit marines to fulfill the Continental Congress's mandate. And the recruitment began at a tavern, Tun Tavern, which is still commemorated in Philadelphia.

And then the final day is Veterans Day, which is set for November 11 every year. We commemorate it, when it is on a weekend, on the nearest weekday. So Veterans Day this year is going to be celebrated tomorrow, November 10.

Veterans Day has an amazing history as well. World War I hostilities ended on the eleventh hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. And so, a year later, Congress, President Wilson, acted to declare that November 11 would henceforth be a day to recognize the heroism of World War I veterans. It was originally Armistice Day.

Armistice Day then began to be celebrated as Armistice Day beginning in—it was first commemorated in 1921 with the burial of an unknown soldier from World War I at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. In 1954, by now, Armistice Day had been extended to celebrate all veterans of all wars, and the name of it was changed by Congress under President Eisenhower to Veterans Day.

And so we stand here today, on November 9, Military Day in Alabama. Tomorrow will be the Marine Corps' 248th birthday. And we will commemorate tomorrow and Saturday Veterans Day all across this country.

I said I was standing on behalf not only of three special days but also hundreds of special people. My colleague

and Armed Services colleague Senator TUBERVILLE of Alabama has, as is his right as a Senator, imposed a blockade on consideration in the normal course of business, pursuant to Senate practice, the confirmation of now 364 high-ranking military officials who have come through the Armed Services Committee.

Senator TUBERVILLE did not object to them coming through the committee, but he has placed a hold on these nominees on account of his disagreement with a Department of Defense policy that provides leave and travel authorities for military servicemembers and their families who must travel to seek noncovered reproductive healthcare, including abortion care, in vitro fertilization services, and others.

As of today, according to the Pentagon, 364 individuals are being held in this way. Huge numbers of these individuals are either in Virginia awaiting confirmation for new positions, in other States awaiting confirmation for positions that would move them to Virginia, or have had some of their military service in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I haven't done the math, but I would venture to suggest that this affects Virginians and future Virginians more than it might any other State.

And, to be plain, none of these 364 have anything to do with or any responsibility over the policy with which my colleague from Alabama finds significant disagreement.

My colleague and I disagree on the policy. That is the norm on the Senate floor. My colleague has had his opportunity to convince Armed Services Committee members that the policy is wrong and has failed to do so, and he has had the opportunity to bring it forward on the Senate floor and has failed to do so.

But these individuals are in a limbo that is very painful to them, and it is my hope that because my Senate colleague did not object to them when they were before the Armed Services Committee, he might see fit—on Military Day in Alabama and on the eve of commemorating the Marine Corps' 248th birthday and Veterans Day—to finally allow them to serve in the positions that they have earned.

And so, with that, Mr. President, I would like to quickly read a letter that we recently received from the American Legion, also timed around Veterans Day, and then move into an effort to seek by unanimous consent the confirmation of all 364 nominees pending before this body.

To begin—from the American Legion—this was a letter that came to us yesterday, no doubt timed because of the pendency of Veterans Day.

Dear Senate leadership: On behalf of our 1.6 million dues-paying members, The American Legion respectfully requests your timely attention to the hundreds of U.S. military vacancies awaiting confirmation. Your leadership and the resolve of your conferences to come together and end this blockade is vital to American national security and to preserving the lives of our men and women in

uniform. Failure to find a bipartisan solution to the continued political chess risks the lives of our servicemembers and the safety of our nation.

Since 1919, The American Legion has emphasized the importance of a strong national defense. A well-funded, well-equipped, and well-trained military plays a vital role in safeguarding the principles our nation holds dear. As U.S. troops are targeted in the Middle East and global tensions are on the rise, it is imperative leadership vacancies within our military are filled now! Our allies and adversaries are watching closely; inaction risks innumerable consequences.

The personal toll of confirmation purgatory extends far beyond uniformed candidates with uncertain promotions. U.S. servicemembers may pay the ultimate price if the perception of chaos continues to create opportunity for our adversaries. As we've seen in the past month alone, the Pentagon has reported more than 38 attacks against U.S. troops in the Middle East. While politicians continue to play games and use our servicemembers as pawns, their lives remain in harm's way and could be left paying the ultimate price.

The American Legion urges both conferences to come together to end the inaction holding our armed forces hostage. Your leadership is vital to protect our servicemembers, national security and our country.

For God and country, Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander, American Legion.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 46, Col. Leigh A. Swanson to brigadier general; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 47, MG Sean A. Gainey to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 48, MG Heidi J. Hoyle to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 49, BG Laurence S. Linton to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 50, BG Stacy M. Babcock to be major general and COL Peggy R. McManus to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 51, Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Gebara to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 52, MG Robert M. Collins to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 82, the following individuals nominated to be brigadier general: Col. David J. Berkland, Col. Amy S. Bumgarner, Col. Ivory D. Carter, Col. Raja J. Chari, Col. Jason E. Corrothers, Col. John B. Creel, Col. Nicholas B. Evans, Col. Bridget V. Gigliotti, Col. Christopher B. Hammond, Col. Leslie F. Hauck III, Col. Kurt C. Helphinstine, Col. Abraham L. Jackson, Col. Benjamin R. Jonsson, Col. Joy M. Kaczor, Col. Christopher J. Leonard, Col. Christopher E. Menuey, Col. David S. Miller, Col. Jeffrey A. Philips, Col. Erik N. Quigley, Col. Michael S. Rowe, Col. Derek M. Salmi, Col. Kayle M. Stevens, Col. Jose E. Sumangil, Col. Terence G. Taylor, Col. Jason D. Voorheis, Col. Michael O. Walters, and Col. Adrienne L. Williams.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 83, Col. Corey A. Simmons to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 84, Rear Admiral George M. Wickoff to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 85, Rear Admiral Frederick W. Kacher to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 86, the following group of individuals who have been nominated to be brigadier general: Col. Sean M. Carpenter, Col. Mary K. Haddad, Col. James L. Hartle, Col. Aaron J. Heick, Col. Joseph D. Janik, Col. Michael T. McGinley, Col. Kevin J. Merrill, Col. Tara E. Nolan, Col. Rodriguez C. Owens, Col. Mark D. Richey, and Col. Norman B. Shaw, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 87, the following couple of individuals nominated to be brigadier general: Col. Kristin A. Hillery and Col. Michelle L. Wagner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 88, the following group of individuals nominated to be major general: Brig. Gen. Elizabeth E. Arledge, Brig. Gen. Robert M. Blake, Brig. Gen. Vanessa J. Dornhoefer, Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Freeman, Brig. Gen. David P. Garfield, Brig. Gen. Mitchell A. Hanson, Brig. Gen. Jody A. Merritt, Brig. Gen. Adrian K. White, Brig. Gen. William W. Whittenberger, Jr., and Brig. Gen. Christopher F. Yancy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 90, Rear Admiral Shoshana S. Chatfield to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 91, Col. William F. Wilkerson to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 92, Col. Evelyn E. Laptook to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 93, Brigadier General Ronald R. Ragin—R-A-G-I-N—to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 94, the following group of individuals nominated to be brigadier general: COL Brandon C. Anderson, COL Beth A. Behn, COL Matthew W. Braman, COL Kenneth J. Burgess, COL Thomas E. Burke, COL Chad C. Chalfont, COL Kendall J. Clarke, COL Patrick M. Costello, COL Rory A. Crooks, COL Troy M. Denomy, COL Sara E. Dudley, COL Joseph E. Escandon, COL Alric L. Francis, COL George C. Hackler, COL William C. Hannan, Jr., COL Peter G. Hart, COL Gregory L. Holden, COL Paul D. Howard, COL James G. Kent, COL Curtis W. King, COL John P. Lloyd, COL Shannon M. Lucas, COL Landis C. Maddox, COL Kareem P. Montague, COL John B. Mountford, COL David C. Phillips, COL Kenneth N. Reed, COL John W. Sannes, COL Andrew O. Saslav, COL Charlone E. Stallworth, COL Jennifer S. Walkawicz, COL Camilla A. White, COL Scott D. Wilkinson, COL Jeremy S. Wilson, COL Scott C. Woodward, COL Joseph W. Wortham II, and COL David J. Zinn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 95, the following group of

individuals nominated to be brigadier general: Col. David R. Everly, Col. Kelvin W. Gallman, Col. Adolfo Garcia, Jr., Col. Matthew T. Good, Col. Trevor Hall, Col. Richard D. Joyce, Col. Omar J. Randall, and Col. Robert S. Weiler.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 96, rear admiral (lower half) for the following two individuals: CAPT Walter D. Brafford and CAPT Robert J. Hawkins.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 97, the following group of individuals nominated to be rear admiral (lower half): CAPT Amy N. Bauernschmidt, CAPT Michael B. Devore, CAPT Thomas A. Donovan, CAPT Frederic C. Goldhammer, CAPT Ian L. Johnson, CAPT Neil A. Koprowski, CAPT Paul J. Lanzilotta, CAPT Joshua Lasky, CAPT Donald W. Marks, CAPT Craig T. Mattingly, CAPT Andrew T. Miller, CAPT Lincoln M. Reifsteck, CAPT Frank A. Rhodes IV, CAPT Thomas E. Shultz, CAPT Todd E. Whalen, and CAPT Forrest O. Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 98, to be rear admiral (lower half): CAPT Brian J. Anderson and CAPT Julie M. Treanor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 99, two individuals nominated to be rear admiral: Rear Admiral (lh) Casey J. Moton and Rear Admiral (lh) Stephen R. Tedford.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 100, Rear Admiral (lh) Rick Freedman to be rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 101, Rear Admiral (lh) Kenneth W. Epps to be rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 102, the following group of individuals nominated to be rear admiral: Rear Admiral (lh) Stephen D. Barnett, Rear Admiral (lh) Michael W. Baze, Rear Admiral (lh) Richard T. Brophy, Jr., Rear Admiral (lh) Joseph F. Cahill III, Rear Admiral (lh) Brian L. Davies, Rear Admiral (lh) Michael P. Donnelly, Rear Admiral (lh) Daniel P. Martin, Rear Admiral (lh) Richard E. Seif, Jr., Rear Admiral (lh) Paul C. Spedero, Jr., Rear Admiral (lh) Derek A. Trinque, Rear Admiral (lh) Dennis Velez, Rear Admiral (lh) Darryl L. Walker, and Rear Admiral (lh) Jeremy B. Williams.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 103, CAPT Frank G. Schlereth III to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 104, the following pair of individuals to be nominated to be rear admiral (lower half): CAPT Joshua C. Himes and CAPT Kurtis A. Mole.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to the following individuals on Executive Calendar No. 105 to be rear admiral (lower half): CAPT Thomas J. Dickinson, CAPT Kevin R. Smith, CAPT Todd S. Weeks, CAPT Dianna Wolfson.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request

with respect to Calendar No. 106 to be major general: Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Harrell, Brig. Gen. Jeannine M. Ryder.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 107, Lt. Gen. James W. Bierman, Jr., to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 110, these individuals as a group nominated to be major general: Brig. Gen. Curtis R. Bass, Brig. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell, Brig. Gen. Charles D. Bolton, Brig. Gen. Larry R. Broadwell, Jr., Brig. Gen. Scott A. Cain, Brig. Gen. Sean M. Choquette, Brig. Gen. Roy W. Collins, Brig. Gen. John R. Edwards, Brig. Gen. Jason T. Hinds, Brig. Gen. Justin R. Hoffman, Brig. Gen. Stacy J. Huser, Brig. Gen. Matteo G. Martemucci, Brig. Gen. David A. Mineau, Brig. Gen. Paul D. Moga, Brig. Gen. Ty W. Neuman, Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Niemi, Brig. Gen. Brandon D. Parker, Brig. Gen. Michael T. Rawls, Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder, Brig. Gen. David G. Shoemaker, Brig. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss, Brig. Gen. Claude K. Tudor, Jr., Brig. Gen. Dale R. White.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 111, Maj. Gen. Bradford J. Gering, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 112, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Masiello to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there is no institution in the world I honor more than the U.S. military. I am thankful to every veteran all year long, not just on Veterans Day.

The Republican Party has been a pro-life party for half a century. We ought to be proud that we stand for life. We stand for the most vulnerable in our society, the unborn.

Let me explain, again, why I am doing this and how we got here and where we go from here. Nine months ago, the Pentagon announced that they would start using taxpayer dollars to facilitate abortion. The Pentagon is now paying for travel and extra time—time off—for servicemembers and their dependents to get abortions.

Let me remind everybody, Congress never voted for this. We also never appropriated money for this. There is no law that allows this administration to do this. In fact, there is a law that says they can't do this. It is 10 U.S.C. section 1093. It says the only time the Pentagon can spend taxpayer dollars on abortion is in cases of rape, incest, and a threat to the life of the mom.

So this is a policy that is illegal and immoral. This is about life, and it is also about the rule of law. It is about our Constitution. It is about whether we make laws at the Pentagon or whether we follow the Constitution.

This is also about the integrity of our military. The only thing in this world I honor more than our military is the Constitution itself, one that we all swore to serve.

I also feel really strong about the obligation to do something about this when the Constitution is attacked. I cannot simply sit idly by when the Biden administration injects politics in our military and spends taxpayer money on abortion.

The only power that a Senator in the minority has is to put a nomination on hold—the only power. I am not the first person to do this. Holds on nominations happen all the time. Holds on military nominations happen and have happened many times before. Typically, they don't last long because the Senator gets what he wants and negotiates, and then doesn't get what he wants. That is not what happened this time. Abortion is so important to the Democrats that they have not negotiated with me—zero.

This has been a long 9 months for us all. Every day this continues is a day that my Democratic colleagues think abortion is more important than these nominations.

I support many of these nominees. I agree that they are very, very important jobs. But we could have been voting on these nominees the entire time. I am not blocking all of these at once. Vote on them one at a time.

I have been talking about that. The Senate has had more than 90 days off this year. Each nomination could take as little as 2 hours. We confirmed three just last week. The nominees at the very top ought to be voted on anyway. They are very, very important positions. These jobs are too important not to receive the advice and consent of this body, the U.S. Senate.

I respectfully disagree with my colleagues about the effect my hold has on the readiness of our military supposedly—not being able to be ready because of people not in positions. But not one of these jobs is unfilled as we

speak. Biden officials have been saying this for months, and nobody has explained to me what reasoning they come up with.

So the fact is, no jobs are going unfilled. Every job is being done. In fact, GEN Mark Milley, who just retired from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said recently that our readiness is the best it has been in years. Time and time again, generals and servicemembers have assured me that they are ready. I believe them.

I am going to keep my holds in place. If Senators want to vote on these nominees one at a time, I am all for it. I will keep my holds in place until the Pentagon allows me the opportunity to negotiate this change of law. This is about our Constitution, and it is about the right to life. They are some of the most important things in this world and very important to me.

For that, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAINA. Mr. President, before returning to Calendar No. 113, I want to respond briefly to my colleague from Alabama.

His position on abortion and reproductive rights is well known, but his claim that the Pentagon policy is unlawful is incorrect. In fact, there has been a policy in place since the Reagan administration that impacts directly upon the policy in the Pentagon.

The Senator from Alabama is correct that, except for limited exceptions, Federal funds may not be used to pay for abortions. That is true. We commonly call it the Hyde amendment, and I am a Hyde amendment supporter.

But, in the 1980s, the Reagan administration was confronted with an issue: What if women in prison—in the Bureau of Prisons—become pregnant and want to terminate a pregnancy? Could Federal funds be used to allow that pregnancy to be terminated?

The Reagan administration's Solicitor General analyzed the situation and said that the Hyde amendment would prohibit funding to procure the abortion, but Federal funds could be used to enable a prisoner to travel to medical care where she could make the choice to terminate a pregnancy.

Later administrations grappled with the same question with respect to Peace Corps volunteers. If a Peace Corps volunteer in a country that does not have reproductive rights access gets pregnant and wants to terminate a pregnancy in a way that is lawful in the United States but not where she is deployed, would the Hyde amendment allow Federal funds to be used?

And consistent with the Reagan administration's ruling, Federal policy has been that Federal funds can be used to enable this Peace Corps volunteer to travel, but the payment for the abortion itself would have to be done privately.

When the Dobbs decision was handed down by the Supreme Court in the summer of 2022, you suddenly had a

whole variety of States eliminate a right that women had been able to count on for half a century—that in the early phases of pregnancy, they could terminate a pregnancy without intrusion by the State.

I have a kid in the military. He didn't get to decide where he went. The women who are in the U.S. military don't get to choose where they are deployed, and so now, huge numbers of women who serve this country are deployed either in nations or in States within the United States where they are no longer able to make their own reproductive choices because of where they are deployed—possibly against their will. We want people to be deployed where the military thinks it is best for them to go. We don't want soldiers to have a veto over where they should go. They should go where the mission demands.

But in the aftermath of the Dobbs decision, the Pentagon grappled with the same question that Republican and Democratic administrations had grappled with respect to women in Federal prisons and Peace Corps volunteers: Should you be able to travel to seek medical care, including terminating a pregnancy, in a way that is lawful in the State where you go and could that be paid by the Pentagon?

And with that consistent policy in place under Democratic and Republican administrations, the Biden administration said we should treat our servicewomen no worse than prisoners; we should treat our women servicemembers no worse than Peace Corps volunteers.

Federal funds, pursuant to the Hyde amendment, cannot be used to pay for an abortion. But if for decades we have allowed Federal prisoners and Peace Corps volunteers to travel and have the Federal government pay so that they can make a decision that is theirs to make on their own dime, we will treat servicewomen no worse.

It is a policy that is not unlawful. It is a policy that is completely consistent with the way the U.S. Government or Democratic and Republican administrations have treated similarly situated women since the 1980s.

Furthermore, the Senator has indicated that the only option a minority Member has is to place a hold on nominees. To the contrary, not a single one of these individuals has had anything to do with the policy that my colleague doesn't like. Why take it out on them? There is another avenue: Convince your colleagues that you are right.

The Senator and I are on the Armed Services Committee. In June, we marked up the National Defense Authorization Act, and we sat around the table. And it is a slight-majority Democratic committee by one member.

And Senator TUBERVILLE offered the amendment saying: Hey, the Pentagon is wrong. We should rescind the Pentagon policy.

And he didn't get the votes. He was not able to persuade his colleagues that he was right.

In the Armed Services Committee, I make amendments all the time that I am not able to persuade my colleagues to go along with me on. I have been on the committee for 11 years now. I bet I have offered dozens and dozens of amendments. I have a pretty good batting average, maybe like a Ted Williams batting average—like .400, not 1.000.

I lose amendments all the time, never once—never once—have I lost an amendment, been unable to convince my colleagues that I am right, and then said I am going to take it out on brave men and women wearing the uniform of this country, who had nothing to do with the policy that makes me upset. Instead, I try harder. I come to the floor and make an amendment to see if I can convince my colleagues here.

Senator TUBERVILLE had an opportunity, when we considered the Defense bill on the floor, to offer the amendment, to change the Pentagon policy, and yet he failed to do so. We offered him the opportunity. He failed to take it. Why? Because he was going to lose on the floor even worse—even worse.

There are ways to handle a policy disagreement. Persuade your colleagues you are right or persuade your colleagues in some middle ground, but don't punish these individuals whose names I am taking time to read because each one of them has served this country bravely, in most instances for decades, with multiple deployments, with Purple Hearts, with Silver Stars, with service in combat zones.

The Senator understands this. His father was a decorated World War II veteran who received a Purple Heart. I will be at the grave of my father-in-law tomorrow, a World War II submariner who is buried at Christ Church, on the Northern Neck of Virginia, to put a flag on his grave. He was buried less than a year ago.

I will give my dad a call this weekend, an Army veteran who served immediately after the Korean war in the U.S. Army. I will think about my son, now a Marine reservist. I will think about my chief military LA, a Marine veteran. They don't deserve this punishment.

And, Mr. President, I ask that it now be in order to make the same request with Calendar No. 113. I believe Calendar No. 112 has been disposed of already. So if I could ask, with respect to Calendar No. 113, Rear Admiral James P. Downey to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 130, MG John W. Brennan, Jr., to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 131, VADM Karl O. Thomas to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 132, Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 133, Brig. Gen. Derin S. Durham to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 134, the following three individuals to be brigadier general: COL Brandi B. Peasley, COL John D. Rhodes, and COL Earl C. Sparks IV.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 135, BG William Green, Jr., to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 136, MG Mark T. Simerly to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 138, VADM Craig A. Clapperton to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 139, Col. Brian R. Moore to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 180, VADM Daniel W. Dwyer to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 182, Rear Admiral (lh) Darin K. Via to be rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with what appears to be a redundant appointment Calendar No. 183, Rear Admiral (lh) Darin K. Via to be rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 184, Lt. Gen. Scott L. Pleus to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 185, Brig. Gen. Dale R. White to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINЕ. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 186, Maj. Gen. David A. Harris, Jr., to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 187, Maj. Gen. David R. Iverson to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 188, Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 189, Maj. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 190, MG David M. Hodne to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 191, MG Roger B. Turner, Jr., to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 192, Rear Admiral Yvette M. Davids to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 193, Rear Admiral Brendan R. McLane to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 194, Rear Admiral John E. Gumbleton to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 195, Rear Admiral Christopher S. Gray to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 196, VADM Charles B. Cooper II to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 197, Rear Admiral James E. Pitts to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 198, Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 199, Maj. Gen. Linda S. Hurry to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 200, BG Miguel A. Mendez to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 201, COL Marlene K. Markotan to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 202, VADM William J. Houston to be admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 203, Col. David M. Castaneda to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 204, Rear Admiral Robert M. Gaucher to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 205, Rear Admiral Douglas G. Perry to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 224, MG Karl H. Gingrich to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request for Calendar No. 225: Rear Admiral (lh) Kenneth R. Blackmon, Rear Admiral (lh) Marc S. Lederer, and Rear Admiral (lh) Robert C. Nowakowski to be rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to the following group of individuals on Calendar No. 226, nominated to be rear admiral (lower half):

CAPT Jeffrey A. Jurgemeyer, CAPT Richard S. Lofgren, CAPT Michael S. Mattis, CAPT Richard W. Meyer, CAPT Bryon T. Smith, CAPT Michael R. Vanpoots.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 227, CAPT John E. Byington to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 228, CAPT John A. Robinson, III, to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Is the next item, Calendar No. 229? Then I ask the same request that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 229, CAPT David E. Ludwa to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 230, CAPT Peter K. Muschinske to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 231 CAPT Marc F. Williams to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 232, LTG Andrew M. Rohling to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 233, MG John B. Richardson, IV, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 234, VADM Jeffrey W. Hughes to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 236, Lt. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request for Calendar No. 237, Maj. Gen. Heath A. Collins, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 238, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Kruse, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 239, Maj. Gen. Michael G. Koscheski to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 240, Lt. Gen. Donna D. Shipton to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 241, MG

Anthony R. Hale to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 242, LTG Laura A. Potter to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 243, MG William J. Hartman to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 244, LTG John S. Kolasheski to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 245, COL Matthew N. Gebhard to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 246, COL Katherine M. Braun to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 248, Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Anderson, IV, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 262, Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 283, two individuals nominated to the rank of major general: BG Mary V. Krueger and BG Anthony L. McQueen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that the same request be made with respect to Calendar No. 284, COL Jack J. Stumme to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 285, COL James F. Porter to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 286, BG Beth A. Salisbury to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 287, Maj. Gen. Michael J. Lutton to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 288, LTG James J. Mingus to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 289, MG Thomas L. James to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 290, MG Charles D. Costanza to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 291, Maj. Gen. James H. Adams, III, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 292, Lt Gen Michael A. Guetlein to be general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 293, Lt Gen Philip A. Garrant to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to the following three individuals on Calendar No. 294 nominated to the rank of major general: Brig Gen Donald J. Cothern, Brig Gen Troy L. Endicott, and Brig Gen Timothy A. Sejba.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 295, Maj Gen Shawn N. Bratton to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 296, Maj Gen Shawn N. Bratton to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 325, BG Laura L. Clellan to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 326, COL John B. Hinson to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 327, CAPT Michael T. Spencer to be rear admiral (lower half).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 328, Lt Gen Stephen N. Whiting, to the rank of general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 330, BG Lisa J. Hou to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 331, the following two individuals nominated to the rank of major general: BG Jackie A. Huber and BG Warner A. Ross, II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 332, the following group of individuals being nominated to the rank of brigadier general: COL Paul W. Dahlen; COL Hubert L. Davidson, Jr.; COL Shawn M. Fuellenbach; COL Eric L. Gagnon; COL Joy L. Grimes; COL John C. Kinton;

COL Scott J. Lewis; COL Jason A. Salsgiver; COL Darin D. Schuster; and COL Geoffrey G. Vallee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 335, VADM James W. Kilby to the rank of admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 336, two individuals to the rank of brigadier general: Col. Matthew S. Allen and Col. Lawrence T. Sullivan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 337, Col. Trent C. Davis to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 338, Lt. Gen. James C. Slife to the rank of general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 339, Maj. Gen. Sean M. Farrell and Calendar No. 340 Maj. Gen. Adrian L. Spain to the rank of lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 342, BG Mary V. Krueger to the rank of lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 350, Rear

with respect to Calendar No. 343, MG Stephen G. Smith to the rank of lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 344, COL Renea V. Dorvall to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 345, COL Robert S. Crockem, Jr., to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 346, COL Clifford R. Gunst to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 347, Rear Admiral (lh) Heidi K. Berg to the rank of rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 348, Rear Admiral Jeffrey T. Jablon to the rank of vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 349, Rear Admiral Blake L. Converse to be vice admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 350, Rear

Admiral (lh) Michael A. Brookes to the rank of rear admiral.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 351, Maj Gen David N. Miller, Jr., to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 382, COL Paul T. Sellars, to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 383, COL Michael C. Henderson, to the rank of brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 384, a group of individuals nominated to the rank of major general: BG Richard T. Appelhans; BG James B. Bartholomees; BG Jacqueline D. Brown; BG Lance G. Curtis; BG Michelle K. Donahue; BG Thomas M. Feltey; BG Lawrence G. Ferguson; BG Andrew C. Gainey; BG David W. Gardner; BG Gavin J. Gardner; BG Clair A. Gill; BG Garrick M. Harmon; BG Richard A. Harrison; BG Joseph E. Hilbert; BG Daryl O. Hood; BG Charles T. Lombardo; BG Douglas S. Lowrey; BG Steven M. Marks; BG Mark C. Quander; BG John T. Reim, Jr.; BG Lori L. Robinson; BG Monte L. Rone; BG William A. Ryan, III; BG Eric P. Shirley; BG David F. Stewart; BG Curtis D. Taylor; BG Brandon R. Tegtmeyer; BG Colin P. Tuley; BG John W. Weidner; BG James P. Work; BG Richard L. Zellmann.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 385, these two individuals nominated to the rank of brigadier general: COL Kristina J. Green and COL Colin J. Morrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 386, COL Anthony B. Poole, to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 387, the following group of individuals nominated to the rank of major general: BG James A. Benson; BG Karen A. Berry; BG Bobby L. Christine; BG Jeffrey L. Copeland; BG Daniel A. Degelow; BG Joseph A. Dinonno; BG Terry L. Griswold; BG David L. Hall; BG Charles D. Hausman; BG Cindy H. Haygood; BG Stephen F. Logan; BG Corwin J. Lusk; BG Jesse M. Morehouse; BG Stephen E. Schemenauer; BG Isabel R. Smith; BG Craig W. Strong; and BG Katherine E. White.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 388, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Regan, Jr., to be major general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 389, Col. Harold W. Linnean, III, to be brigadier general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 390, LTG Douglas A. Sims, II, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 391, MG David T. Isaacson, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President I ask that it be in order to make the same request with respect to Calendar No. 392, Maj Gen Douglas A. Schiess, to be lieutenant general.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I believe I have now offered UC requests for all 364 service men and women whose nominations have been pending on this floor many months. They have waited patiently after serving their country courageously, and I am sure there are some in the Chamber wondering why bother to take the floor for a couple of hours when the outcome of this was pretty well known in advance.

On the evening before Veterans Day, on the evening before the Marine Corps' 248th birthday, and on the day that the State of Alabama is celebrating its ties to the military, I wanted to offer these unanimous consent requests so that I could have a chance to say the name of each individual as a way of letting them know that there are many in this body who will not forget about them until they are confirmed.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of Intercessors for America—IFA—a ministry that has faithfully served believers by encouraging effective prayer and fasting for the Church, our Nation,

and our elected leaders, including those of us elected to Congress. At the time of IFA's founding, the Watergate scandal, the Vietnam war, pervasive drug use, and the Supreme Court's tragic decision to legalize abortion on demand in *Roe v. Wade* had shaken the moral foundations of our Nation. In the 50 years since, IFA's ministry has been important in rebuilding a society that once again respects the Judeo-Christian principles and moral values that lie at the heart of America.

The founding leaders of IFA, including Derek Prince and John Beckett, began their first activities at a large dining table where John Talcott and his wife Roselyn wrote a prayer letter, which was mailed to a group of like-minded people who recognized the need for God to intervene to heal our Nation. Over the past 50 years, IFA has grown from these beginnings to inform, connect, and mobilize intercessors across America, in churches and communities nationwide, to pray for our Nation and our leaders.

In its work, IFA follows the teaching of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-3: "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth."

Nowhere could this impact of the power of prayer, including the prayers of many IFA intercessors, be better seen than the Supreme Court's historic decision in 2022 in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to overturn the moral stain of *Roe v. Wade*. This moment was a testament to God's faithfulness, and underscores the importance of the work we have ahead of us to rebuild a culture where God's gift of life is respected and cherished.

It is an honor to recognize Intercessors for America and to celebrate its 50-year anniversary, in gratitude for its work, through prayer and intercession for public officials, to restore our moral values, protect the right to life and the family, and to bring about a renewal of faith, so that God may continue to bless our Nation. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. SANDRA G. TREADWAY

• Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the Librarian of Virginia, Dr. Sandra Gioia Treadway, upon her retirement after 45 remarkable years of service to the Library of Virginia. Dr. Treadway has served as the Librarian of Virginia for the past 16 years and was deputy librarian 11 years before that. She joined the library in 1978 as an associate editor of publications and served in various positions before being named the State librarian in 2007. In this esteemed role, Dr. Treadway was the steward for the most comprehensive collection of materials on Virginia

government, history, and culture available anywhere.

Dr. Treadway, with nearly 15 years of teaching experience, has always had a public servant's heart. Her dedication to education and the dissemination of knowledge has been a defining feature of her career. Through her extensive teaching background, she has enriched countless students' lives and fostered a deep understanding of the value of learning and libraries. Dr. Treadway has received numerous awards and distinctions, such as Virginia Tech's Teaching Excellence Award and the Filby Award for Genealogic Librarianship, in acknowledgement of her unwavering dedication to the educational process and her commitment to research.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Treadway has exhibited a profound commitment to preserving Virginia's rich cultural heritage and promoting access to knowledge for all. Her visionary leadership played a pivotal role in digitizing many rare manuscripts, historic maps, and government records dating back to the early Colonial period, ensuring their preservation for future generations. As part of her work in the library, Dr. Treadway oversaw a statewide records management program, worked with State agencies and localities to establish retention requirements for official records, offered records management training, and monitored compliance with the Virginia Public Records Act.

Her team is known for its innovative focus on helping make history accessible. I have personal experience with this, as correspondence and emails from me and my staff during my time as Governor of Virginia were made available digitally through a groundbreaking and massive undertaking in digital records preservation and access.

She is also a respected historian and has authored and co-edited several important historical projects from the history of the Library of Virginia, which is among the State's oldest agencies to a history of the Woman's Club in Richmond. She has undertaken particular efforts to tell a more inclusive history of the Commonwealth, including the State's commission to design and install a women's monument on Capitol Square. She has served as a steady and trusted hand at the helm of the library, guided by a passion for helping individuals unlock and understand their history through use of the collections. Her abiding passion stems from a belief that the most inspiring stories come from illuminating the voices and experiences of the everyday people whose lives are preserved in a variety of government records and private papers the library holds.

As she embarks on a well-deserved retirement, Dr. Sandy Treadway leaves a legacy of tireless public service, innovation, and a profound love for Virginia's history. In a time where divisiveness can be alarmingly normal, she

garners deep respect and admiration from elected and appointed officials of all parties, and she has been a model for leading with grace and kindness. Her service has not only enriched the Commonwealth's cultural heritage but also set a high standard for future leaders in the field to aspire to. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for her years of dedicated service and wish her a retirement filled with fulfillment and new adventures.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill.

H.R. 1226. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2872. To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2779. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Temporary Suspension of Continuance Referendum" (Docket No. AMS-SC-23-0007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2780. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "U.S. Standards for Grades of Processed Raisins" (Docket No. AMS-SC-21-0091) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2781. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills" (Docket No. AMS-FTPP-21-0055) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2782. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office

of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: New Designated Country—North Macedonia (DFARS Case 2024-D001)" (RIN0750-AL98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2783. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Prohibition on Certain Procurements from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (DFARS Case 2023-D015)" (RIN0750-AL88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2784. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Restrictions on Overhaul and Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards (DFARS Case 2021-D021)" (RIN0750-AL39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2785. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security-Based Swap Execution and Registration and Regulation of Security-Based Swap Execution Facilities" (RIN3235-AK93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2786. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 8790-01-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2787. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Elements of the 2008 and 2015 Ozone National Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 11358-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2788. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Locomotives and Locomotive Engines; Preemption of State and Local Regulations" ((RIN2060-AW12) (FRL No. 8952.1-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2789. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, twelve (12) legislative proposals aimed to help agencies recruit and retain a highly skilled federal workforce; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2790. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice,

transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Attorney General’s Third Quarterly Report of Fiscal Year 2023 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-2791. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles” (Docket No. CPSC-2019-0008) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2792. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4084” ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31513)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2793. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class E Airspace; Northeast Wyoming Regional Airport, Gillette, WY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0850)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2794. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines, LLC Engines; Amendment 39-22570” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1996)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2795. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a legislative proposal aimed to help agencies recruit and retain a highly skilled federal workforce; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-85. A report from The Pleasant-Bey Legal Initiative regarding the pending U.S. Supreme Court Case: Pleasant-Bey V. Clendenion, No.: 23-5568; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 3263. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3264. A bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KAINA:

S. 3265. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the number of individuals from the District of Columbia who may be appointed to military service academies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. KAINA):

S. 3266. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study regarding the use of mobile devices in elementary and secondary schools, and to establish a pilot program of awarding grants to enable certain schools to create a school environment free of mobile devices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 3267. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, as the “First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3268. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal wildland firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3269. A bill to prohibit funding for the Government of Ukraine for the nationalization of strategic assets; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3270. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish a budgetary Tribal Government consultation process at the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3271. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the fight against communism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3272. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to divert certain parents of minor children, expectant parents, and other caregivers from incarceration and into comprehensive programs providing resources, services, and training to those individuals and their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to remove the overtime wages exemption for certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3274. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the work opportunity tax credit with respect to hiring veterans who are receiving educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or Defense; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. REED):

S. 3275. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow certain funds to be used for incremental costs of incorporating art into facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 3276. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3277. A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to reauthorize the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 3278. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who is serving, or has served, in the Armed Forces of the United States on the application of any such alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of any such alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3279. A bill to promote equity in advanced coursework and programs at elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 3280. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 3281. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat products such as beef and imitation meat products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3282. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive the requirement of certain veterans to make copayments for hospital care and medical services in the case of an error by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3283. A bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to support workers who are subject to an employment loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3284. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the limitation on reimbursement for emergency treatment of amounts owed to a third party or for which the veteran is responsible under a health-plan contract; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3285. A bill to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butte, Montana, as the "Charlie Dowd VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3286. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the rules of the Commission relating to disclosures by advisors of private funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3287. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for supportive services for very low-income veterans families to include former members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3288. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3289. A bill to ratify and approve all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the establishment and administration of the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PAUL):

S.J. Res. 49. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S.J. Res. 50. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Cybersecurity Risk Management, Strategy, Governance, and Incident Disclosure"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr.

DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 458. A resolution denouncing efforts by the People's Republic of China to exert malign influence in Latin America; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DUREIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 459. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 10

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 127

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices and the dissemination of false information related to pharmacy benefit management services for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the

Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 886

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 886, a bill to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1176

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1176, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the

health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1269

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1269, a bill to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1538, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1669, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to establish a grant program for family community organizations that provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and their families.

S. 1922

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1922, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms.

DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2982

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2982, a bill to require a GAO study on the sale of illicit drugs online, and for other purposes.

S. 2993

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2993, a bill to amend the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to permanently authorize certified community behavioral health clinics, and for other purposes.

S. 3077

At the request of Mr. TESTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3077, a bill to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to annually review and update the facilities and property of the United States Government determined to be national security sensitive for purposes of review of real estate transactions under section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

S. 3089

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3089, a bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, to expand the replacement of stolen EBT benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 3163

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3163, a bill to strengthen protections against child labor violations, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, non-territorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes.

S. 3241

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3241, a bill to establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas of the Natchez Historical Park, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINA:

S. 3265. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the number of individuals from the District of Columbia who may be appointed to military service academies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. KAINA. Madam President, in all 50 States, young Americans who wish to serve their country send in applications for the high honor of recommendation to a military service academy by their U.S. Representative or either of their U.S. Senators. However, because the District of Columbia is not a State and has no Senators, young people from DC have only a third as many opportunities to be nominated for these academies as Americans from the 50 States have.

This simple bill would ensure that DC gets the same number of academy nominations as States do for the U.S. Military Academy, Naval Academy, and Air Force Academy. This bill originated with DC's distinguished Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and I am proud to join her with a Senate companion ahead of Veterans Day later this week.

Reviewing service academy applications is one of my most fulfilling duties in the Senate. I cannot help but be optimistic about our country's future when I see so many talented, dedicated, and patriotic young people seeking to pursue careers serving their country in uniform. Any young American should have an equal chance to be nominated for this honor, whether they come from the District of Columbia or any of the 50 States. This bill allows them that chance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to remove the overtime wages exemption for certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act, which I introduced today.

America's truckdrivers are on the frontlines of keeping goods and our economy moving. More than 70 percent of goods across the United States are shipped by truck.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting supply chain crisis exacerbated longstanding challenges for truckers, including long hours away from home and time spent waiting—often unpaid—to load and unload at congested ports, warehouses, and distribution centers.

As our Nation makes historic investments in our port and supply chain infrastructure through the bipartisan infrastructure law, we should also improve wages and working conditions for essential workers and ensure they are paid for all of the hours they work.

However, for more than 80 years, Federal law has denied truckers guaranteed overtime pay benefits that are afforded to nearly all other professions. This means that if a truckdriver experiences delays due to congestion or weather, they are often not paid even though they are working. Requiring overtime will create an incentive for the shippers, receivers, and carriers to get cargo loaded and unloaded—keeping truckers and our supply chain moving.

The motor carrier exemption exacerbates trucking workforce challenges. In fact, a February 2022 freight and logistics supply chain assessment by the Department of Transportation urged Congress to repeal this exemption. Additionally, research suggests that when truck labor rates are fair, there is less driver fatigue, fewer regulatory violations, and lower crash rates.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bill to repeal the overtime exemption for motor carriers.

I want to thank Senator MARKEY for coleading this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this bill that will ensure that trucker compensation reflects the fact that these jobs are essential.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—DENOUNCING EFFORTS BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO EXERT MALIGN INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr.

DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 458

Whereas, as of October 2023, the People's Republic of China is the main trading partner for South America, including Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, and the second largest trading partner for Central America;

Whereas 21 countries in Latin America have joined the Belt and Road Initiative, 4 countries in Latin America have free trade agreements in place with the People's Republic of China, and 7 countries in Latin America have comprehensive strategic partnership agreements with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has worked to expand the use cases of the digital yuan for the Belt and Road Initiative, even using the digital yuan to settle cross-border transactions;

Whereas trade between Latin America and the People's Republic of China has grown by more than \$300,000,000,000 annually since 2000;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is a voting member of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank and provides loans to Latin America through the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, including to Venezuela, which has approximately \$60,000,000,000 worth of Chinese state loans as of October 2023;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has invested in or bid on numerous infrastructure projects in Latin America, including around the Panama Canal, such as deep-water ports, telecommunications projects, and cyber networks;

Whereas investments offered to countries in Latin America by the People's Republic of China often require countries to renegotiate the terms of their debt and have low or non-existent labor and environmental standards;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's refusal to disclose its lending to foreign countries and reluctance to engage in significant debt restructuring is undermining the missions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank related to global economic development and stability;

Whereas, in 2021, the People's Republic of China developed a Joint Action Plan with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States to promote cooperation on governance, economic, and security policy;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has invested more than \$70,000,000,000 in the raw materials sector in Latin America, including critical minerals such as lithium, nickel, and cobalt;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has sought to export military hardware to Latin America and bolster intelligence operations and cooperation with governments in Latin America, including by establishing a defense forum with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

Whereas Taiwan served as a permanent observer to the Central American Parliament for more than 2 decades before the Central American Parliament voted on August 21, 2023, to expel Taiwan and replace it with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas state-owned Chinese media operates in Latin America and conducts malign influence operations with a goal of influencing public opinion relating to activities conducted by the People's Republic of China and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party; and

Whereas the United States has a vested interest in maintaining and growing the important bilateral and multilateral relationships it has with countries in Latin America, which are underscored through cooperation at the Organization of American States and through trade agreements and strategic dialogues; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes the importance of continuing to develop and establish trade agreements with bilateral partners in Latin America and pursue multilateral and regional engagement through international fora to counter involvement of the People's Republic of China in economic, political, and security issues in the Western Hemisphere;

(2) urges additional United States investment in and foreign assistance to Latin America, including by expanding opportunities for private sector investment in critical infrastructure projects or by developing and promoting new public-private partnerships with partners in Latin America to strengthen the economic engagement of the United States and advance democratic governance in the region;

(3) expresses gratitude to Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their continued support for Taiwan;

(4) condemns efforts by state-owned Chinese media to conduct information operations in Latin America and sow distrust in public institutions, including judicial systems;

(5) supports transparent bidding processes for projects related to the telecommunications and information and communications technology sectors in Latin America as well as other critical infrastructure projects, including cyber and digital connectivity projects;

(6) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to work with the Senate to expeditiously nominate Ambassadors and ensure diplomatic personnel are swiftly confirmed to the relevant posts to ensure continued engagement with partner governments in Latin America;

(7) emphasizes the importance of continuing to provide technical assistance to partners in Latin America, including assistance to counter disinformation, corruption, and economic coercion through available mechanisms such as the United States International Development Finance Corporation;

(8) reaffirms the importance of the annual Summit of the Americas as an opportunity to promote the bilateral and multilateral relationships between the United States and allies and partners in Latin America, including new initiatives established as a result of cooperation at the Summit of the Americas such as the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity;

(9) acknowledges the 24 active partnerships the United States has with defense and security forces in Latin America through the State Partnership Program of the National Guard, which include an emphasis on implementing the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy of the United States; and

(10) renews its commitment to establishing, upholding, and investing in partnership opportunities between the United States and Latin America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 459—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINES, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 459

Whereas, from November 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates that—

(1) in 2020, there were 9,666,058 individuals of American Indian and Alaska Native descent in the United States; and

(2) in 2020, there were 680,442 individuals of Native Hawaiian descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and write in their Indigenous languages, which have influenced and contributed in a variety of ways to the United States, including the naming of places and sites throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed support for self-governance and self-determination policies for Native American communities and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to—

(1) strengthening the government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes; and

(2) upholding the Federal trust responsibility to Native American communities;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the world in many fields, including agriculture, environmental stewardship, wayfinding, medicine, music, dance, language, and art;

Whereas contemporary applications of traditional knowledge systems of Native Americans have expanded scientific, environmental, and intercultural understanding;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States for centuries and have the highest per capita involvement of any population currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used Indigenous languages to communicate an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in both conflicts; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2023 as “National Native American Heritage Month”;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1364. Mr. KAINES (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

SA 1365. Mr. KAINES (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1364. Mr. KAINES (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) condemns Hamas in the harshest terms for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel;

(2) decries Hamas’s abductions and threats made against hostages, including threats to use hostages as human shields;

(3) demands that Hamas provide access and medical care to all hostages;

(4) demands that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety;

(5) calls on the United States to lead a global effort to demand the release of the hostages held captive by Hamas; and

(6) expresses sympathy to the hostages and those wounded, and to their families, and mourns those killed by Hamas’s terrorist attacks.

SA 1365. Mr. KAINES (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group, launched premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip into Israel, targeting the Israeli people;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded more than 20 communities bordering the Gaza Strip and attacked innocent young people attending the Tribe of Nova music festival;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has killed more than 1,400 Israelis, along with at least 30 United States citizens, and wounded nearly 4,000 people;

Whereas reports and videos have surfaced of Hamas executing Israeli civilians, including entire families being slaughtered and horrific acts of violence targeting young children;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has fired more than 5,000 rockets into Israel;

Whereas it is estimated that nearly 240 people were abducted and are being held hostage in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas more than 20 countries have verified their citizens were either killed or are unaccounted for, with many believed to be taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas children and the elderly are among those taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas some hostages, including multiple United States citizens, are known to be in dire need of urgent medical assistance;

Whereas Hamas has threatened to execute hostages and broadcast the executions publicly;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States designated Hamas a foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the attacks by Hamas in the strongest terms and unequivocally called for the “immediate release of all abducted persons”;

Whereas the deliberate murder and hostage-taking of innocent civilians are prohibited by international law: Now, therefore, be it

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINES. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my legislative fellows Kristen Farrell and Walker Swain be granted floor privileges for the duration of their fellowships with my office.

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

CONDEMNING HAMAS FOR ITS PREMEDITATED, COORDINATED, AND BRUTAL TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAEL AND DEMANDING THAT HAMAS IMMEDIATELY RELEASE ALL HOSTAGES AND RETURN THEM TO SAFETY

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 408.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 408) condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. Kaine. I ask unanimous consent that the Rosen substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the Rosen substitute amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1364) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

(1) condemns Hamas in the harshest terms for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel;

(2) decries Hamas's abductions and threats made against hostages, including threats to use hostages as human shields;

(3) demands that Hamas provide access and medical care to all hostages;

(4) demands that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety;

(5) calls on the United States to lead a global effort to demand the release of the hostages held captive by Hamas; and

(6) expresses sympathy to the hostages and those wounded, and to their families, and mourns those killed by Hamas's terrorist attacks.

The resolution (S. Res. 408), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble (No. 1365) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group, launched premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip into Israel, targeting the Israeli people;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded more than 20 communities bordering the Gaza Strip and attacked innocent young people attending the Tribe of Nova music festival;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has killed more than 1,400 Israelis, along with at least 30 United States citizens, and wounded nearly 4,000 people;

Whereas reports and videos have surfaced of Hamas executing Israeli civilians, including entire families being slaughtered and horrific acts of violence targeting young children;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has fired more than 5,000 rockets into Israel;

Whereas it is estimated that nearly 240 people were abducted and are being held hostage in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas more than 20 countries have verified their citizens were either killed or are unaccounted for, with many believed to be taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas children and the elderly are among those taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas some hostages, including multiple United States citizens, are known to be in dire need of urgent medical assistance;

Whereas Hamas has threatened to execute hostages and broadcast the executions publicly;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States designated Hamas a foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the attacks by Hamas in the strongest terms and unequivocally called for the "immediate release of all abducted persons"; and

Whereas the deliberate murder and hostage-taking of innocent civilians are prohibited by international law: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 408

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group, launched premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip into Israel, targeting the Israeli people;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded more than 20 communities bordering the Gaza Strip and attacked innocent young people attending the Tribe of Nova music festival;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has killed more than 1,400 Israelis, along with at least 30 United States citizens, and wounded nearly 4,000 people;

Whereas reports and videos have surfaced of Hamas executing Israeli civilians, including entire families being slaughtered and horrific acts of violence targeting young children;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has fired more than 5,000 rockets into Israel;

Whereas it is estimated that nearly 240 people were abducted and are being held hostage in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas more than 20 countries have verified their citizens were either killed or are unaccounted for, with many believed to be taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas children and the elderly are among those taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas some hostages, including multiple United States citizens, are known to be in dire need of urgent medical assistance;

Whereas Hamas has threatened to execute hostages and broadcast the executions publicly;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States designated Hamas a foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas the deliberate murder and hostage-taking of innocent civilians are prohibited by international law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Hamas in the harshest terms for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel;

(2) decries Hamas's abductions and threats made against hostages, including threats to use hostages as human shields;

(3) demands that Hamas provide access and medical care to all hostages;

(4) demands that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety;

(5) calls on the United States to lead a global effort to demand the release of the hostages held captive by Hamas; and

(6) expresses sympathy to the hostages and those wounded, and to their families, and mourns those killed by Hamas's terrorist attacks.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 459, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 459) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

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

Mr. KAYNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 459) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the de Alba nomination postclosure; further, that all postclosure time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and the cloture motion filed during today's session ripe at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. KAYNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:28 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 13, 2023, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 9, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

MONICA RAMIREZ ALMADANI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

BRANDY R. MCMILLION, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.