

For 4 years in a row the Department of Homeland Security has had to tighten its belt. Everyone has. We have been willing to do that. We have operated at reduced funding. But the impact of the sequester—which is really a blunt instrument that cuts funding in a not very smart way. They are automatic cuts that were never intended, that were never designed to run the government. They were really designed to motivate us to do a better job of getting to the budget. That seems not to be working. As a result, these automatic cuts that are blunt, that are harsh, and that really are not smart are happening to all of our agencies, defense and nondefense alike. It is time to get rid of that inefficient way of operating and go to a more strategic, forward-leaning planning budget process.

I just want to mention an agency that I am very supportive of, the Coast Guard, not only because we build many of the boats in Louisiana but because so many of our people—and Massachusetts as well—are literally saved every year by the Coast Guard. We have lots of water, lots of lakes, lots of important work going on with offshore oil and gas drilling, and we are intercepting drugs that come into the United States. The Coast Guard is on the front line. They are operating their surface and air assets at 25 percent below planned levels because of sequestration—not smart cuts. It has resulted in a 30-percent reduction of drug seizures—people are not happy to hear this; I am not happy to say it—and an 11-percent reduction in the interdiction of undocumented migrants.

Under a yearlong CR, Customs and Border Protection would not be able to hire any new officers for our air, land, and sea ports of entry. This is bad news for travel and trade. The Presiding Officer knows, as people come into America they ask: Why do we have to wait so long in line? We just came here to do business. We have to get to New York, Chicago, Boston, Louisiana, California, and to other places where people come to do international business.

We can't shift assets from the past to the front line with a sequester. We can only do it with a rational budget that will help cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, Dallas, New Orleans and Miami to grow. This is important to business. It is important to the Chamber of Commerce.

So I urge my colleagues, let us work very hard together in a bipartisan way to come to some agreement on our budget, so that we can have direction as appropriators to design bills—whether it is for the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Commerce—to fashion budgets that meet future needs, that are not funding tired past priorities but are funding investing in the real future and real-time needs, present and future, of our citizens and of the great country that we believe in and want to see get stronger.

Under a year-long CR, DHS would not be able to implement safeguards to prevent unauthorized release of classified information. Vulnerabilities in the existing system were highlighted in the Wikileaks releases and the more recent disclosures by Edward Snowden. There was no funding in fiscal year 2013 to stop this type of activity so DHS's classified data will not be adequately protected without fiscal year 2014 funding.

Critical infrastructure protection efforts would be hindered. For example, without the \$34 million above the fiscal year 2013 sequester level, inspections of chemical plants to prevent weaponization by terrorists will be delayed. Funding to better coordinate Federal chemical programs in the wake of the West, Texas facility explosion will not be provided. Increases to prevent catastrophic impacts to critical infrastructure during manmade or natural disasters will be eliminated.

Because of these impacts, it is critical that we conference our fiscal year 2014 Senate bills with our House counterparts so that we can address the weaknesses that continuing to operate at sequestration levels would entail. A conference would also permit a necessary delay to flood insurance rate increases for properties that were formerly grandfathered into affordable rates since the House and Senate Homeland Security bills contain identical language on this issue. This is one small step in a larger effort I have been working on to fix flood insurance so that it is affordable, accessible and self-sustainable. Time and time again, Senators have heard from their constituents about the skyrocketing increases in flood insurance rates. Many homeowners throughout the United States will see their rates rise to unaffordable levels. For example, up to 2.9 million policies nationwide could see their previously grandfathered rates become absolutely unaffordable. One resident in my State of Louisiana could see rates increase from \$633 to over \$20,000 per year. That makes homeownership unachievable for many Americans and traps others in houses that they cannot sell.

We must get our work done. We need to agree on a budget for fiscal year 2014. Then we need to finalize our fiscal year 2014 bills so that our agencies have the appropriate funding for their critical missions—instead of lurching from one funding crisis to the next. This is a hard task but one I believe that is achievable. This is exactly what we were elected to do.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 346.

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

The motion was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CORNELIA T.L. PILLARD TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

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

The assistant 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cornelia T. L. Pillard, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jon Tester, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Mazie Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert Menendez, Bill Nelson, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

DRUG QUALITY AND SECURITY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Is the motion to proceed to H.R. 3204 now pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed to H.R. 3204 is pending.

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

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

The assistant 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 236, H.R. 3204, an Act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to human drug compounding and drug supply chain security, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Mark Begich, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Barbara Mikulski, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING IVEY LEE ARMSTRONG, SR.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Ivey Lee Armstrong, Sr., who died last month. He was just 62. He worked for nearly 30 years cooking and preparing delicious food in the Senate Carryout. The entire Senate community will miss him dearly.

Many of our constituents may not appreciate that the Senate truly is a community. Our partisan or regional differences of opinion are made public on C-SPAN2, in the newspapers, and on the campaign trail. But here, where we work day in and day out, we are surrounded by thousands of hardworking and dedicated people who mostly toil in anonymity. They are the fabric of the community here. They are the ones who keep the Senate functioning. We have our own staff, and the committees have staff, and leadership has staff, and there are the floor and cloakroom staffs and the Parliamentarian and Senate legislative counsel and the Bill Clerk and the Senate reporters, and so on. But we also have Capitol Police, who protect all of us and the thousands of people who visit the Capitol campus daily. We have plumbers and electricians and carpenters and painters. We have people who man the elevators and the subways and help guide the public through the buildings and up into the Galleries. And we have people who work in the cafeterias, including the Senate Carryout in the basement of this building.

I eat lunch at the Senate Carryout frequently because it is convenient and because the food is excellent. It is really home cooking. And I always enjoyed catching up with "Mr. Ivey," as everyone knew him. But it wasn't just his culinary skills that we will miss. Mr.

Ivey was a fine gentleman. He was unfailingly cheerful and polite and he made everyone feel at home.

Meredith Shiner and Niels Lesniewski wrote a nice article about Mr. Ivey in Roll Call, noting that he was often the first person at work in the morning and the last one to leave when the Senate Carryout finally closed for the night. They also noted that he was an Army and Army National Guard veteran who earned the National Defense Service Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, and M16 Sharpshooter awards. I am proud to say he was a constituent and there will be a memorial service for him tomorrow at From the Heart Church of Ministries in Suitland.

Mr. Ivey wasn't just devoted to his country, to the Senate, and to his job, he was devoted to his family and to his faith. According to the Roll Call article, Mr. Ivey re-enlisted so that he could get the health care coverage needed for a sick daughter. It is a big family—8 siblings, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren, among others. I want to send my deepest condolences to his family and friends and coworkers. The Senate community has lost one of its finest and kindest members. We will miss his cooking but, more important, we will miss his good cheer, his demeanor, and his friendship.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, recently the people of Taiwan celebrated their National Day, marked by celebrations, parades, and fireworks befitting its importance as a national holiday. This occasion offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the state of our bilateral relationship with Taiwan, which has been a cooperative and warm relationship over many decades.

In this rapidly evolving 21st-century global economy and with Taiwan's economic significance having steadily grown, it is important for our two nations to further resolve our bilateral trade issues. While some progress has been made through our trade and investment framework agreement, the continued resolution of outstanding trade issues could help pave the way for even deeper ties, including the possibility of a bilateral investment agreement.

Concurrently, the U.S. Trade Representative recently wrapped up the 19th round of negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. I welcome Taiwan's interest in the TPP—an interest that we hope will serve as a catalyst for Taiwan to continue making progress toward meeting its existing trade commitments so that it may be in a position to meet the higher level requirements of the TPP.

Taiwan continues to be an important friend and ally of the United States, and we look forward to strengthening those ties.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT LAWRENCE ROUKEY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Sergeant Lawrence A. Roukey, a native of Maine, was honored today for his exceptional service and sacrifice by the Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA, in a ceremony at DIA Headquarters. SGT Roukey was among four servicemembers honored and inducted into the DIA Patriots' Memorial located in the lobby at DIA Headquarters on Joint Base Bolling Anacostia in Washington, DC. The DIA Patriots' Memorial honors DIA employees who died in service to the United States in support of DIA's mission.

As a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart, Sergeant Roukey has previously been recognized for emulating the highest values of selflessness, dedication, and courage. Let me illustrate how DIA described Sergeant Roukey's heroism and outstanding contribution on behalf of our country and why the agency is honoring him today. A member of the U.S. Army Reserve, Sergeant Roukey volunteered to serve during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the security detail for the Iraq Survey Group mobile collection team that was conducting a critical field inspection in an anticoalition forces area. Under dangerous conditions, Sergeant Roukey and his squad mate provided protective security for personnel charged with inspecting a suspected weapons of mass destruction facility in Baghdad on April 26, 2004. Both soldiers lost their lives when a massive explosion occurred at the facility being inspected.

Prior to rejoining the military as an Army Reservist in Maine, Sergeant Roukey served in the U.S. Army infantry in South Korea and Egypt. He was a respected teammate in the Reserves and at the Portland Post Office, where he worked as a civilian, and he enjoyed hiking and sharing stories about his family.

It is fitting for the DIA and for all of us to honor Sergeant Roukey so close to Veterans Day, as well as all of the men and women who have sacrificed so much in defense of America and American values, including our military intelligence professionals. Prior to today's ceremony, the memorial at DIA honored 21 individuals for their ultimate sacrifice. Now the memorial honors 25 individuals. Today we commemorate Sergeant Roukey and the other servicemembers honored with him, as well as all of those who have served under the flag of the United States of America.

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL LANDSBERRY

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of Nevada's own veterans, MSgt Michael Landsberry, who died a hero's death in Sparks, NV, on October 21, 2013. After spotting a student with a gun at Sparks Middle