

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

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA ANN BASHANT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 589.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk on this nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Pryor, Mark Begich, Robert Menendez, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Claire McCaskill, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed.

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

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF JON DAVID LEVY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 590.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie Hirono, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar.

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

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 30th annual National

Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act. It is a time to recognize the losses faced by victims of crime and their families, and to acknowledge the efforts of those who work so hard to ensure the protection and well-being of crime victims in Vermont and across the nation. It is also a time to reflect on all that we have accomplished together over the past three decades, and to focus on what more we must do to support and protect victims of crime. I have long supported victims of crime through the Victims of Crime Act, and I was proud to cosponsor the Senate resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2014.

One of our most effective tools to serve and support victims is the Crime Victims Fund. In 1984, the Senate voted to pass the Victims of Crime Act—VOCA—which created the Fund. The Fund is rightfully sustained by criminal fines and penalties, not by taxpayer dollars, and provides funding and support for victim services across the country. These services include funding for victim assistance, and compensation programs to help with medical, funeral, and burial costs, mental health counseling, and lost wages.

In 1996, after the Oklahoma City bombing, I supported the creation of an Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve Fund to support communities in the wake of acts of mass violence. These funds provide emergency relief and assistance in the wake of tragedies that might otherwise overwhelm the resources of the State's crime victim compensation and victim assistance services. That Emergency Reserve Fund has been used to support communities in the aftermath of shootings at Virginia Tech, Aurora, and Newtown, and most recently to cover longer term victim assistance for the marathon bombing victims in Boston. The Office of Victims of Crime also provides funding directly to other federal agencies to support assistance to victims of mass violence and terrorism, including the Department of the Army following the 2011 Fort Hood shooting.

The Crime Victims Fund has a long history of supporting victims of crime. I am grateful that in the Fiscal Year 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, we were able to raise the cap on the Fund by \$15 million. This is a historic and hard-won achievement that translates to more money for victims' assistance grants. Yet despite the increase, support for direct victim assistance remains 13 percent behind where funding levels were 15 years ago. As a result, 1.3 million fewer victims today are receiving help funded under VOCA. It is clear that more work remains to be done on behalf of victims of crime.

This year, I led a letter with Senator CRAPO requesting that the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee

on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies set the cap on obligations from the Fund as high as possible. As States are forced to tighten their belts, victim services are being cut all over the country. Without Federal assistance from this trust fund, victims' compensation programs and victims' assistance programs and services would be unavailable to many.

I am also proud to be the lead sponsor of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which is another important measure that strengthens crime victims' rights and improves crime victims' services. This bipartisan bill was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in October 2013 and every Democratic Senator has cleared this bill for immediate passage by the Senate. This is a strong, comprehensive bill that has the support of many Senators, including Senators CORNYN and MCCONNELL. There is no reason that this important bill should not be passed as soon as possible.

This legislation reauthorizes the original Justice for All Act of 2004. The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them. This legislation strengthens key rights for crime victims, reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, includes provisions to improve the quality of indigent defense, and increases access to post-conviction DNA testing to protect the innocent. It strengthens the rights guaranteed to crime victims in the criminal justice process and ensures that basic services, like the rapid testing of rape kits, help victims receive the justice, safety and closure they deserve. This legislation also increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. This vital program assists forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting those who commit those crimes so that victims have peace of mind knowing that justice will be served. I urge my fellow senators to support the passage of this vital legislation.

I was also extremely proud when the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 was signed into law last year by President Obama. This is legislation, which I introduced with Senator CRAPO, reauthorized the critical Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. When we enacted VAWA 20 years ago, it sent a powerful message that we will not tolerate crimes against women, and the law forever altered the way our Nation combats domestic and sexual violence. Just as it did nearly 20 years ago, this reauthorization offers support to the victims of these terrible crimes and helps them find safety and rebuild their lives. It was crafted with a great deal of input from victims and the tireless professionals who work to support them every day, and I am grateful for their support and assistance.

The VAWA reauthorization takes responsible and moderate steps, in this case to protect immigrant and Native women, and ensuring services to all victims, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This legislation also includes new protections to prevent stalking and campus assault. It is particularly fitting to talk about this in April, which is also Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I am glad that the Senate was able to quickly move on this bipartisan bill and ensure it was passed in a timely manner. The reauthorization of VAWA was approved by the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 78–22. This is an issue that has and should continue to transcend partisanship, and we did just that last year when an overwhelming majority of the Senate voted in favor of VAWA. I hope we can continue to work together to support women's and victims' rights in the future.

This includes supporting the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act, another bipartisan bill that I introduced in March. This legislation represents a comprehensive and commonsense approach toward guaranteeing the effectiveness and scientific integrity of forensic evidence used in criminal cases. It is critical that Americans have faith in their criminal justice system, and this legislation aims to achieve that by promoting national accreditation and certification standards and stronger oversight for forensic labs and practitioners. The Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act ensures that reform efforts will be guided by experts and practitioners with both criminal justice expertise and scientific independence, and it establishes consistent standards in the forensic science disciplines. I am glad to be working with Senator CORNYN on this important effort.

I have always supported and will continue to support victims' rights. As we recognize the horrific losses victims of crimes have endured, it is important that we work towards lessening the effects of these tragedies and help victims can recover and rebuild. I look forward to working with my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to ensure that crime victims are never forgotten, and that they have our strong and enduring support.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last month, I spoke on the Senate floor about a friend from my hometown of Montpelier, VT, GEN Richard Cody. General Cody left Montpelier—one of our Nation's smallest State capital—to serve his country, beginning as a student at West Point. He had an outstanding military career serving all over the world and culminating with his service as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

General Cody recently returned to Vermont, where he was honored by his

alma mater, Montpelier High School. Prior to the testimonial dinner saluting him, General Cody went back to the high school, where he inspired students with his patriotism and commitment to making a positive difference in the world. In fact, his student audience was so inspired with this tremendous leader that he received a standing ovation at the end of his remarks.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article by Amy Nixon published in the April 5, 2014, edition of the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus in honor of General Cody's return to Vermont.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus, Apr. 5, 2014]

#### GENERAL WELCOMED BACK TO CAPITAL (By Amy Nixon)

MONTPELIER.—Gen. Richard Cody, a retired four-star general who came up through the ranks at Montpelier High School, returned to his alma mater Friday afternoon to share with students, staff and faculty his story, as well as inspiration for how the coming generation of young Americans can serve their nation as leaders, whether or not they choose to wear a uniform.

Cody is a graduate of the Class of 1968, and the message board in front of the high school was changed to welcome him back for the day's events. After high school he went on to West Point and ascended through the ranks to become a four-star general and the 31st vice chief of staff of the Army. He retired in 2008, and serves today as the chairman of the board for "Homes for our Troops," a national nonprofit organization which builds handicapped-accessible homes for disabled veterans and their families.

Cody served in the Army for 36 years, and was one of fewer than 40 four star generals in all of the armed forces combined at the time of his retirement.

His visit was sponsored by the Montpelier High School Boosters, who are also hosting a dinner tonight in Cody's honor at the Capitol Plaza Hotel as part of their Celebration of Excellence program. A short film presented to Cody at his retirement, about eight minutes in length, was shown, with photos of him as a young boy growing up here to his high school sports accomplishments in newspaper headlines of the day, his high school photo, shots of him during his career in the Army and during his time at West Point, at his wedding, with his children, and with the troops with whom and for whom he served for nearly four decades—including several returning soldiers whose bodies had been tangled by war, and were in military hospitals with the General visiting their bedsides.

Cody was known as the "G.I.'s General," and at one time former President George H.W. Bush introduced Cody, quipping, "Take a good look at him. I'm glad he's on my side!"

The film ended with Cody stating, "You can't ever leave the Army, you just take the uniform off."

After the film, Cody shared stories of what it was like to be the second in command of the U.S. Army, with more than 1.1 million American men and women in active duty, the reserves and National Guard being his responsibility.

"It's great to be back at Montpelier High School with the Solons," he said, offering a walk-back through his life before and after the Army by way of providing some life lessons to the hundreds of young people sitting before him in the same seats he once sat in.