

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

The assistant bill 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 Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

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 Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Hatch	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Inhofe	Reid
Cantwell	Isakson	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	King	Schumer
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Feinstein	McCaskey	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—29

Alexander	Cruz	Kirk
Barrasso	Enzi	Lee
Blunt	Fischer	McConnell
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Burr	Heller	Paul
Cochran	Hoeven	Portman
Corker	Johanns	Risch
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	

Roberts	Sessions	Thune
Scott	Shelby	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Hagan	Toomey
Coburn	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

NOMINATION OF BARBARA A. LEAF, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NOMINATION OF THEODORE G. OSIUS III, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

NOMINATION OF ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

NOMINATION OF KAREN CLARK STANTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

United States of America to the United Arab Emirates; Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda; and Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time on these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

VOTE ON LEAF NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON OSIUS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON RUGGLES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON STANTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the confirmation vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 927, 954, 1047, 1048, and 1052; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in this series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect the nominations that I have listed here to be confirmed by voice vote tomorrow.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Doby on his service to the U.S. Senate and the Capitol Hill community. A loving husband and devoted father, Chris has dedicated three decades of his life to the Senate.

Chris began working for the Senate Disbursing Office as a junior auditor in 1983. His honorable character and strong work ethic quickly earned him greater responsibility. Before becoming the assistant financial clerk Chris served as auditor, audit counselor, senior auditor, senior auditor/counselor, financial manager system analyst, systems administrator and IT systems administrator. In 2005 Chris became the financial clerk of the Senate where he has served with distinction.

His discipline and special attention to detail have been remarkable. Chris

is best known for his willingness to share his extensive institutional knowledge and for his calm demeanor. When faced with the difficulties of government shutdowns and the challenges of sequestration, Chris remained steadfast, and encouraged others to do the same. He has served this body, our staff and the entire Capitol Hill community with character and conviction and he will be greatly missed.

I join my colleagues in wishing Chris all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend last night's cloture votes on the nominations of Randolph Moss to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and Leigh Martin May to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. I was with my family welcoming my new grandson. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported both cloture motions.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHANDLER III

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding soldier who has, for the last three and one-half years, served as the Army Chief of Staff's primary advisor on matters related to the needs and welfare of all enlisted soldiers and their families.

In January, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler will retire after 33 years of distinguished service to the Army and the Nation. Throughout his career, he has been an exceptional leader and has personified the values of duty, integrity, and selfless service in all of the missions to which he has contributed.

SMA Chandler was born in Whittier, CA and enlisted in the Army in September 1981. He attended one station unit training at Fort Knox, KY and graduated as a 19E armor crewman.

SMA Chandler has served in every tank crewman position and has had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. He also served as the 19th Commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, the first enlisted commandant of that academy in its history.

I know that SMA Chandler is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his twelve grandchildren, and I wish he and his wife Jeanne the very best. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Sergeant Major of the Army Chandler and his family for their many years of commitment, sacrifices, and service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commend Turner Elementary School

of Turner, ME, on being named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This year, Turner Elementary was one of only 337 schools across the country and the only school from Maine to receive this prestigious recognition of high accomplishment by the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes the remarkable progress that Turner Elementary has made over the past several years in closing student achievement gaps. These outstanding improvements can be attributed to the school's emphasis on professional development opportunities for its teachers and to its commitment to educating the whole child. Turner Elementary has strengthened its curriculum initiatives in math, reading, and writing and has also benefited greatly from its talented and dedicated leadership team, which helps students, parents, and educators set and reach their goals.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Turner Elementary School for this well-deserved honor and congratulate not only the students but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents on this outstanding achievement. Together, they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students by helping them become energetic learners and engaged citizens.

RECOGNIZING CEDARVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Cedarville Elementary School of Fort Wayne, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as Exemplary High Performing, schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State's assessment, or as Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics.