

Casey	Johanns	Reed
Cochran	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Risch
Coons	Kaine	Roberts
Corker	King	Rockefeller
Cornyn	Kirk	Rubio
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cruz	Landrieu	Schatz
Donnelly	Leahy	Schumer
Durbin	Lee	Scott
Enzi	Levin	Sessions
Feinstein	Manchin	Shaheen
Fischer	Markey	Shelby
Franken	McCain	Stabenow
Gillibrand	McCaskill	Tester
Graham	McConnell	Thune
Grassley	Menendez	Toomey
Hagan	Merkley	Udall (CO)
Harkin	Mikulski	Udall (NM)
Hatch	Moran	Vitter
Heinrich	Murkowski	Walsh
Heitkamp	Murphy	Warner
Heller	Murray	Warren
Hirono	Nelson	Whitehouse
Hoeven	Paul	Wicker
Inhofe	Portman	Wyden
Isakson	Pryor	

NAYS—3

Carper	Coats	Flake
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NOT VOTING—2

Chambliss	Coburn
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KEVIN W. TECHAU TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

NOMINATION OF ANDREW MARK LUGER TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. HOBBS TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF GARY BLANKINSHIP TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF AMOS ROJAS, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NOMINATION OF PETER C. TOBIN TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY LUZZATTO GARDNER TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

NOMINATION OF ROBERT A. SHERMAN TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk reported the nominations of Kevin W. Techau, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa; Andrew Mark Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota; Robert L. Hobbs, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas; Gary Blankinship, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas; Amos Rojas, Jr., of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida; Peter C. Tobin, of Ohio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio; Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union; and Robert A. Sherman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, at the conclusion of the vote, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be recognized for up to 1 minute, the Senator from Georgia up to 7 minutes, the senior Senator from Rhode Island for up to 2 minutes, and that I be recognized thereafter, subject to the majority leader.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Kevin Techau on his nomination as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa.

U.S. attorneys hold a very important position in our system of justice. They are charged with upholding the law and, consequently, must possess impeccable legal skills and superior knowledge. Additionally, it is just as important that U.S. attorneys be committed to justice, fairness, due process and equal protection. I am confident that Mr. Techau understands the importance of the job he is about to undertake and has the skills, perseverance, and sense of justice necessary to make the most of his new position.

There is no question that Mr. Techau is highly qualified to be a U.S. attorney. He gained extensive law enforcement and managerial experience as head of Iowa's Department of Public Safety and Department of Inspections and Appeals under then Governor Tom Vilsack. He also has broad criminal justice and trial experience, including as an assistant Federal public defender in Iowa, as a staff judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force and Iowa National Guard, and in private practice. That experience will serve him well in his new position.

Mr. Techau has also demonstrated over the course of his career his commitment to public service, strong leadership, excellent judgment, and integrity. He will vigorously and fairly enforce the law, and I am certain that Mr. Techau will continue his dedication to justice.

Mr. Techau is a person of truly outstanding intellect and character, and I wholeheartedly congratulate him—as well as his wife, Stephanie, and two children—on his nomination as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to share a few words of support of Kevin Techau to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. Mr. Techau received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1981, and his J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1984. Mr. Techau also has a distinguished military career. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate from 1985 until 1992. While serving in the base legal office he provided legal counsel on a broad array of issues, including Federal laws, employment law, medical malpractice claims and criminal prosecution.

As a circuit defense counsel, he served as lead attorney in major felony cases in European and eastern United States circuits representing U.S. Air Force airmen in court-martial cases involving charges brought under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Mr. Techau joined the Iowa National Guard in 1993 and served until 2011.

In 1992, Mr. Techau joined the firm of Grefe & Sidney in Des Moines, IA. As an associate attorney, the primary focus of his practice was in civil litigation. From 1996 until 1999, Mr. Techau served as a Federal public defender for Iowa. His practice as a public defender was both at the trial and appellate level, and he has tried cases in the U.S. Federal Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Techau was appointed to the position of director of inspections and appeals for Iowa in 1999, and in 2002 was appointed as commissioner of public safety for Iowa.

Since 2007, he has been associate general counsel at American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company. There he handles litigation management for the company. Throughout his career, Mr. Techau has demonstrated

his commitment to serving the people of Iowa and the United States.

Finally, let me just add that I have known the Techau family for decades and I know Mr. Techau personally. He has even been a running partner of mine from time to time. He is a man of fine character and commitment. I believe he will serve as U.S. attorney with distinction and honor. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kevin W. Techau, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LUGER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is now recognized for 1 minute.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise in support of Andrew Luger. I thank my colleagues for the work they have done to make sure Minnesota has a U.S. attorney in place. I want to particularly thank Leader REID and Senator MCCONNELL, the two leaders, for their work, as well as Senator FRANKEN. The two of us put together a nonpartisan recommendation coming from the committee, and we are very glad the President took that recommendation and recommended Andrew Luger, with his vast criminal prosecution experience as well as his civil experience.

I also thank Senator GRASSLEY for his work as well as Senator CORKER. Minnesota has gone 2½ years without a full-time U.S. attorney, as our U.S. attorney was doing the job as ATF Director at the same time, and the over 100 people who work at the U.S. attorney's office in Minnesota truly deserve a leader.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Andrew Mark Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HOBBS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert L. Hobbs, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BLANKINSHIP NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gary Blankinship, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ROJAS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and

consent to the nomination of Amos Rojas, Jr., of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON TOBIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Peter C. Tobin, of Ohio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will now be notified of the Senate's action.

The motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1963 be returned to the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, two nominations remain to be disposed of.

Mr. REID. Are we in executive session?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume executive session.

VOTE ON GARDNER NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SHERMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert A. Sherman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic?

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate now resumes legislative action.

The majority leader.

MEASURE RETURNED TO THE CALENDAR—S. 1963

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that S. 1963 be returned to the calendar.

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

COMPREHENSIVE VETERANS HEALTH AND BENEFITS AND MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY RESTORATION ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to calendar No. 301, S. 1982.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 301, S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, as we leave Washington for about 10 days, I wish to leave some suggestions in President Obama's suggestion box.

There has been a lot of commentary about income inequality, needing to raise the minimum wage, needing to create more jobs, and the President talked about doing these things with the stroke of a pen in his office because of an uncooperative legislative branch. I want to suggest four things the President himself could do to immediately initiate job creation, opportunity, and a more robust economy for the United States of America.

First, trade promotion authority. The President said in his remarks in his State of the Union speech he was for trade promotion authority. We need him to get with the Democratic majority in the Senate to bring TPA to the floor of the Senate.

A history lesson: In the 1990s, a Republican Congress gave Democratic President Bill Clinton trade promotion authority for fast track. America's exports and imports grew exponentially, jobs were created, and America became a robust trading partner around the world with countries all over the world. That has expired. We need to give it to President Obama.

We have three pending opportunities: The Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and the African Growth and Opportunity Act, all of which are pending negotiations between now and 2015, and all of which will generate jobs, trade, and opportunity for the United States of America.

Please, Mr. President, demand from the Senate that you get TPA and you get it now.

Secondly is Keystone. We have all heard a lot about Keystone, but I want to reiterate, now that the State Department has for the fifth time signed off on the Keystone Pipeline, why are we denying America the oil and petroleum it needs and instead acceding ourselves to the nation of China?

America has the opportunity to become the most independent energy

country in the world. It is critical the Keystone Pipeline be built to create jobs and to see that we continue to control the generation of petroleum and energy in our country and become a net seller rather than a gross importer, which we have been for many years in the past.

The Keystone Pipeline makes sense for the unions, makes sense for business, makes sense to America, and America does a better job environmentally of treating petroleum and refining it than any country in the world, particularly China. It ought to come to America, and the President can do that with the stroke of a pen.

Third, GSE reform. Our government-sponsored entities Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae continue to do business, but they languish from a lack of attention. We need to reform those two entities so we can have a robust housing market for a middle America.

If you have enough money to pay cash for a house in America today, you can do that. If you are on the low end and want an FHA loan, you can get that. But if you are in middle America—if you are one of those Americans we all talk about wanting to help—there is not enough mortgage money available because there is no government-sponsored entity to guarantee the paper to guarantee the capital to flow into America.

If you want to get the unemployment rate down from 6.4 to 5 percent, which all of us want, there is one way to do it; that is, bring back a robust housing market, which still does not exist in the United States today.

Fourth, talk to PATTY MURRAY and TOM HARKIN. TOM HARKIN is the chairman of our Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. PATTY MURRAY is the chairman of the subcommittee I serve on in terms of labor, and let's get the Workforce Investment Act, which for 6 years has languished in terms of continuation and renewal, renewed and reauthorized. Let's get it done. The work is done. We are this close. We just need an impetus from the White House to tell the Congress to go ahead and get it done and send it.

I appreciate what the President said he is going to do with JOE BIDEN. I think JOE BIDEN is a tremendous Vice President and he does a great job, but we don't need to recreate the wheel. Congress has done the work on WIA. It is time to pass it and it is time for the President to sign it.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY COX

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a great Georgian, a personal friend of mine, and a great baseball player in the history of our country: Bobby Cox, No. 6, former third baseman for the New York Yankees, third baseman for the Atlanta Braves, manager of Toronto's Blue Jays when they won a World Series, and for 14 consecutive seasons he took the Atlanta Braves to a playoff. Five of those seasons he took them to the National League Championship and one of those

seasons he took them to win the World Series against the Cleveland Indians.

Bobby Cox was voted into Baseball's Hall of Fame and will be sworn in at Cooperstown, NY, on June 27 of this year. Bobby Cox is an icon in baseball and a great human being. He set many records, such as the following: 2,085 victories with the Atlanta Braves, best in Braves history; overall record of 2,413 wins and 1,930 losses. The Braves won more games with Cox, 1,725 in a 19-season span, than any other team in baseball; 15 divisional crowns, 5 pennants, and he holds the record for the most ejections of any manager in the history of baseball.

The reason that is a positive story is this: Bobby Cox fought for his players. He knew how to motivate a crowd, he knew how to get on an umpire's back, and he knew how to turn the team bench around. His 132nd ejection took place in November of 2007 during one of the playoff games when he went out and argued a third called strike against his star player Chipper Jones. Two innings later the Braves came back and rallied and won. In large measure, it was Bobby's fighting for his players that made the difference.

But Bobby Cox also fights for Georgia. His work with the Dreams of Recovery Foundation, which Cindy Donald founded for those who are paraplegic and quadriplegic in Georgia, has been a miracle. Bobby gives his time and effort all the time to help those who are less fortunate.

He also continues to help the Atlanta Braves, who will soon be moving from downtown Atlanta to my home county of Cobb County, in Marietta, GA.

I pay tribute and give thanks to Bobby Cox for all he has given to our State and recognize him for the achievement of being sworn into Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Best of luck, Bobby, for many more years to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first, I wish to thank my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE for yielding me 2 minutes.

We are leaving here with major unfinished business. We have not extended unemployment benefits for 1.8 million Americans. They are getting to be increasingly desperate. They need this assistance as they continue to look for work in a very difficult time.

I think it is interesting, if not ironic, that the pay-for mechanism that was instead used to pay for the appropriate adjustment of the military retirees' COLA was the same pay-for mechanism we had proposed to use to extend these benefits for up to several months, almost 1 year. Yet many of my colleagues on the other side rejected that, saying that was inappropriate.

We have to come back. We will come back. We have to deal with unemploy-

ment insurance. We have to find a way, both sides, to come together and find a way to provide modest assistance for these Americans who are struggling to find work in a market where there are up to three applicants for every job.

With that, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BOOZMAN precede me in recognition on the floor for such time as he may consume.

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

The Senator from Arkansas.

RESTORING THE MILITARY COLA

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, in last year's budget agreement our retired servicemembers were unjustly targeted to bear the burden of irresponsible spending. Balancing the budget on the backs of our servicemembers is a reckless move which violates the responsibility we have to those who wear our Nation's uniform, which is why I voted against the budget agreement.

Numerous Arkansans have reached out to me urging Congress to correct these misguided cuts. I have been encouraging my colleagues to restore these cuts at the earliest opportunity in order to provide certainty for our military retirees' financial future. I, working with others in this body, have worked hard to bring this to a vote.

Yesterday, the House took action. I am pleased to be able to stand here today and tell those Arkansans and all veterans that the Senate has followed suit and corrected this injustice.

However, we must continue working to fully repeal the section of the Bipartisan Budget Act which reduces retirement pay for those who enlist after January 1, 2014. Any changes which Congress may consider to our military compensation system should be done in a thoughtful and responsible manner in the context of a broader compensation system.

I supported this bill before the Senate today to restore the full cost of living adjustment for those enlisted prior to 2014, but I will continue working to fully repeal this cut which singles out current military enlistments to bear the burden of wasteful Washington spending. We need to right this wrong so our veterans, servicemembers, and their families have one less thing to worry about. However, this overwhelmingly bipartisan vote today was certainly a step in the right direction.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this marks the 58th consecutive week we have been in session where I have