

every pending nominee a floor vote before you leave for your recess. Absent legitimate concerns over a nominee's qualifications, we believe that this can best be accomplished over the next few weeks by voting on multiple nominees at a time.

We know from the daily experience of our more than 400,000 members that vacancies must be filled promptly so that courts have the resources to deliver timely, impartial justice. By putting politics aside, an opportunity is provided for the Senate to use its time in the next two weeks to afford considerable relief to the federal courts.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the American Bar Association.

Sincerely,

PAULETTE BROWN,  
*President.*

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### EMBRACING ALL RELIGIONS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, earlier today Donald Trump called for the United States to ban all Muslims from entering our Nation. This is the single worst idea I have heard from any Presidential candidate, ever. It is inconsistent with our American values. It is inconsistent with our national history.

The Nation has looked back on events in our past—for example, the Chinese Exclusion Act or the internment of Japanese American citizens—and realized it was a huge mistake to make one significant group our enemy. It is inconsistent with the vision of our Constitution, in which all came to the United States seeking to escape persecution and to be able to practice whichever religion they chose. The Founders of the United States did not seek to make our Nation one in which only a single religion could be practiced. They did not seek to establish one religion as a preeminent religion. They instead wanted a safe haven where people could worship as they pleased, which is the heart of our First Amendment.

This idea is wrong and wrongheaded. It is wrong in the context that we are not at war with Islam. In fact, we are working in partnership with Islamic nations to take on a terrorist group known as ISIS. It is wrong in that all patriotic Americans of every religion are working together to take on this terrorist group known as ISIS. In addition to being wrong, it is wrongheaded in that making Islam the enemy is playing straight out of ISIS's playbook, which wants to create a war between America and Islam. In that sense, this type of irresponsible statement endangers our national security rather than strengthens it.

So let others stand up and embrace our citizens of every religion and recognize the partnership we are in together to take on terrorist forces, that we are working in partnership with a variety of nations that have a whole variety of religions, including Islam, to take on the terrorist force known as ISIS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in a few minutes we will be voting on the

President's nominee to fill a vacancy in the Eastern District of Tennessee. Mr. McDonough is well known to me and is well known to my colleague, Senator CORKER.

Mr. McDonough received his undergraduate degree from Sewanee before going on to law school at Vanderbilt. He was a member of a prominent Chattanooga law firm, Miller & Martin. He was chief of staff to Chattanooga's mayor. He is a well-qualified man. We are fortunate that he is willing to serve, and we are fortunate the President nominated him. I urge my colleagues to vote for him.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McDonough nomination?

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 332 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Ernst	Merkley
Ayotte	Feinstein	Mikulski
Baldwin	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Flake	Murphy
Bennet	Franken	Murray
Blumenthal	Gardner	Nelson
Booker	Gillibrand	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Perdue
Boxer	Hatch	Peters
Brown	Heinrich	Portman
Burr	Heitkamp	Reed
Cantwell	Heller	Reid
Capito	Hirono	Risch
Cardin	Hoeven	Rounds
Carper	Inhofe	Sasse
Casey	Johnson	Schatz
Cassidy	Kaine	Schumer
Cochran	King	Scott
Collins	Klobuchar	Sessions
Coons	Lankford	Shaheen
Corker	Leahy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Cotton	Manchin	Sullivan
Crapo	Markey	Tester
Daines	McCain	Thune
Donnelly	McCaskey	Tillis
Durbin	McConnell	Udall
Enzi	Menendez	

Vitter  
Warner

Warren  
Whitehouse

Wicker  
Wyden

NOT VOTING—11

Blunt  
Coats  
Cruz  
Graham

Isakson  
Kirk  
Moran  
Roberts

Rubio  
Sanders  
Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Kenneth Damian Ward, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; and Linda I. Etim, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ward and Etim nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

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.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:05 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CHARLOTTE P. KESSLER, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ESPERANZA EMILY SPALDING, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, VICE LEE GREENWOOD, TERM EXPIRED.

##### UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MARCELA ESCOBARI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MARK FEIERSTEIN, RESIGNED.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 7, 2015:

##### THE JUDICIARY

TRAVIS RANDALL McDONOUGH, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE	RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE	UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
KENNETH DAMIAN WARD, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, FOR THE	AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.	LINDA I. ETIM, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.