

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Bill Cassidy, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, John Thune, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch.

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 Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: The Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted “yea.”

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Cochran	Hoeven	Scott
Collins	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Strange
Cornyn	Kaine	Sullivan
Cotton	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Warner
Daines	Manchin	Wicker
Donnelly	McCain	Young
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Franken	Murray
Bennet	Gillibrand	Nelson
Blumenthal	Harris	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Sanders
Brown	Heinrich	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Markley	Udall
Cortez Masto	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Flake	Moran	Sasse
Isakson	Murkowski	Toomey

Thre PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

ANTI-LGBTQ VIOLENCE IN CHECHNYA

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, today, with deep concerns, I wish to speak about the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer—LGBTQ—individuals in Chechnya, in southern Russia.

Starting in early April of this year, news reports from the region told the horrific story of gay men being detained, tortured, and in some cases killed on the basis of their sexual orientation. At least 100 gay men—and according to some press reports, as many as several hundred—were held and tortured in secret detention facilities in Chechnya. At least three men were killed: one after being tortured by authorities and two following calls by local officials encouraging so-called honor killings. As one Russian gay rights activist noted, “there is little doubt that we are dealing with crimes against humanity.” Stories of men being tortured and interrogated to reveal fellow LGBTQ individuals are also deeply disturbing.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the Head of the Chechen Republic, has made a number of troubling comments that LGBTQ individuals “don’t exist” in Chechnya, an abhorrent denial of the human rights of LGBTQ individuals in Chechnya. According to accounts by the British Foreign Ministry, Kadyrov is planning to “eliminate” gay men in Chechnya before the beginning of the religious month of Ramadan at the end of May. State-sanctioned violence that targets individuals based on their sexual orientation demands international condemnation, and the United States must be a strong voice for the human rights of all individuals.

Though Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has stated he will support an inquiry into these reports, Russia’s track record shows a lack of serious commitment to human rights, particularly on LGBTQ issues.

I commend the work of nongovernmental organizations in Russia and abroad who have worked to evacuate LGBTQ individuals from Chechnya,

and I am heartened by the advocacy of many Ohioans on this important issue. The U.S. must stand as a fierce advocate for the inalienable rights of all individuals. I urge the administration to take a strong stance in defense of human rights and publically condemn these acts of barbarous inhumanity. We must never forget lessons of the past concerning what happens when we allow unchecked hatred and bigotry to manifest, and we must always preserve the U.S. as a beacon of hope for individuals around the world.

TRIBUTE TO HMONG AMERICAN VETERANS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize a remarkable coalition of veterans today. Every year on May 15, Alaskan Hmong American Vietnam veterans come together to celebrate Hmong American Veterans Memorial Day in remembrance of General Vang Pao’s final flight out of Laos.

From February 1961 to May 1975, Hmong fighters from the hill country in Laos risked their homes, their families, and their lives to join the United States and South Vietnam in the fight against communist oppression. They undoubtedly knew that, whether they won or lost the war, life would never be the same for them; yet they willingly chose to serve. For nearly three decades, their involvement was kept a secret, in what is now commonly referred to as “the Secret War.”

Mr. Pasert Lee, a resident of the Mountain View neighborhood in Anchorage, AK, is one of those honorable Hmong American veterans. He served as a lieutenant in General Vang Pao’s army and played a role in rescuing downed American pilots and returning them to American Forces in South Vietnam. He tells me that, under the leadership of the general, Hmong forces rescued nearly 50 pilots and were responsible for saving countless American lives. Many people do not realize that more than 40,000 Hmong were killed or wounded in support of freedom in Vietnam.

May 15, 1975, marked the beginning of the exodus of the Hmong people from their homes in Laos. Mr. Lee, like most of our honorable Hmong American veterans, have never returned home—even to visit—in fear for their lives.

Having lost tens of thousands of our Hmong allies in support of the United States in Vietnam, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the sacrifices of those like Mr. Pasert Lee and all the Hmong veterans who worked tirelessly to protect, rescue, and defend American servicemembers and downed American pilots on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The efforts of the Hmong people have never properly been acknowledged and, like many of our Vietnam veterans, were never properly appreciated.

Today, more than 40 years after the end of “the Secret War,” I would like

to commend our Hmong Americans and wish them peace and bountiful blessings as they remember their fallen on May 15, 2017.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DONALD BELLAMY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Donald Bellamy for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Donald is a native of Casper, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. He is a junior at the University of Wyoming at Casper, where he studies human communication and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Donald for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO BAILEY BOWEN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Bailey Bowen for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Bailey is a native of Kemmerer, WY. She currently attends Utah Valley University, where she is studying behavioral science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Bailey for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY CORLEY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Timothy Corley for his hard work as an intern at the Republican Policy Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Timothy is a native of Maryland and a graduate of American University, School of International Service. He studied U.S. foreign policy. He has

demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Timothy for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JACOB HENRY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jacob Henry for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jacob is a native of Casper, WY, and is a second-year student at Casper College. He served in the Marine Corps and has received two Purple Hearts. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jacob for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH MILLER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sarah Miller for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sarah is a native of Pennsylvania. She recently graduated from American University, where she received a degree in international studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sarah for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO SEAN O'BRIEN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sean O'Brien for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sean is a native of Illinois and a graduate of American University,

School of International Service. He received a degree in international studies. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sean for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL OWEN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Samuel Owen for his hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Samuel is a native of Columbus, OH, and is a junior at the University of Wyoming. He is studying finance and energy development and management. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Samuel for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JACKSON VENTRELLA

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jackson Ventrella for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jackson is a native of Mesa, AZ, and is a junior at Hillsdale College. He is studying politics. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jackson for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO COLYER WOOLSTON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Colyer Woolston for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.