

like Germany in World War II, and like Vietnam in the Vietnam war were our bitter enemies at one time but are now our friends. Maybe we can turn the page with Iran, and they can turn the page with us. They will be better for it, and in the end, we will too.

Your generation, especially, will be better for that.

I thank Senator CORKER and, again, Senator CARDIN and their staffs. I thank our leadership—Senator McCONNELL and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER—for making sure that this resolution was taken up and written. It worked out, and we will have a chance to vote on it. I just do not want somebody sometime later—this evening or tonight—when asking for unanimous consent to adopt a Senate resolution with a certain number on it, to ask: What was that all about? I want people to know that this is about something that is important, and I am grateful to all who had a hand in it.

Thank you very much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that upon the reporting of the nomination of David P. Pekoske, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the nomination be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that if the 30 days lapse while the Senate is in recess, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs shall have an additional 5 session days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination, after which the nomination, if still in committee, be discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to

the nominations 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.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN359 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (8) beginning Fred Aziz, and ending Nathalie Scharf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2017.

PN360 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (12) beginning David Gossack, and ending Pamela Ward, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I would have cast my vote in favor of Scott Brown to represent the United States as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. New Zealand has been a treaty ally of the United States since the signing of the Australia-New Zealand—United States Treaty in 1951. As a crucial partner and ally, the United States and New Zealand share core values of democracy, human rights, and liberty, and I believe it is imperative for the United States to maintain strong allegiance to our long-standing friends throughout the world.●

REMEMBERING BARBARA McCALLAHAN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it is with very great sadness today that I honor the life of my longtime staff member and dear friend, Barbara Wise McCallahan. Barb passed away on May 26, 2017.

Barb has worked in my congressional and Senate offices for over 20 years, joining my team on my very first day in Congress in 1997. She was a volunteer on my campaign for the U.S. House and worked many subsequent campaigns. She staffed my Howell and Flint Township offices when I served in the U.S. House. Over the years, she rep-

resented me in Livingston, Washtenaw, Monroe, Wayne, and Oakland Counties as a regional manager in the Senate. For over 20 years, she has been an anchor for me in southeast Michigan.

Barb loved to tell the story of when she first walked into my campaign office to volunteer when I ran for the U.S. House of Representatives. Coming from the hometown of my opponent, she would laugh that my team suspected that she was a spy. This couldn't have been further from the truth. Barb has been fiercely loyal and steadfastly protective of me for over two decades.

I cannot think of anyone who has spent more time over the years driving in a car with me. We have survived blizzards, avoided countless speed traps, identified the fastest drive-through restaurants, and I have never seen anyone who could bypass construction better than Barb. The countless hours we spent together over the years deepened my appreciation for her resolve and determination and cemented a lasting friendship.

Barb was a fighter. She faced many challenges early in her life. She took that fighting spirit and tenacity and fought throughout her career for so many individuals, families, and communities she helped represent. She was committed, tough, proud, and resilient.

I watched Barb struggle with the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease in recent months and, along with her family, friends, and coworkers, was deeply affected by her losses earlier this year. While we will all continue to mourn her death, we also celebrate her life, her accomplishments, and her enduring spirit.

Barb is an example of the amazing and talented professionals who commit themselves to congressional service. She has served the State of Michigan and her country with distinction and honor.

No tribute to Barb can be done without including her family. I remember many community events and parades over the years with Barb and her young sons. Although a private person, Barb would light up when talking about her family; she was especially proud of her boys Patrick, Ian, and Brian and her grandson, Shane. On behalf of all of Team Stabenow, you will always be part of our family.

Please join me and countless others as we honor the life of my longtime staff member and dear friend, Barbara McCallahan.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DANIEL Q. GREENWOOD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate a tremendous Marine officer, Col. Daniel Q. Greenwood, for his distinguished service as the commanding officer, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division

and commanding officer, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, SPMAGTF—Crisis Response—Africa. Colonel Greenwood's dynamic leadership and operational expertise brought about historic success for his unit and was instrumental to the accomplishment of priority U.S. national security objectives throughout Europe and Africa.

After taking command in April 2016, Colonel Greenwood aptly led a fine team of marines during their predeployment training, ensuring a cohesive and highly effective regiment that was able to singularly focus on mission requirements. His clear and concise guidance set the tone for the entire command, successfully focused the regimental headquarters, and enabled a positive command climate with open lines of communication and a constructive learning environment.

Upon deploying in October 2016, Colonel Greenwood's excellent leadership and operational prowess brought about continued organizational and operational achievements, to include his team's successful participation in multiple operations and 15 theater security cooperation engagements across the continent of Africa. Further, his vibrant personality and intuitive understanding of cultural complexities fostered alliances with key partner nations, building valuable partner capability and enduring relationships. One of the most significant accomplishments of the SPMAGTF was the assessment of “high risk, high threat” U.S. embassies in West and North Africa. To prepare for crisis response actions, Colonel Greenwood personally interacted with multiple ambassadors and regional security officers to form essential relationships and facilitate necessary information sharing. His tireless efforts allowed current and future SPMAGTF rotations to develop feasible, supportable, and comprehensive contingency plans for these strategic posts.

I would also like to honor and thank the Greenwood family for their tremendous service and sacrifice during the past year. Colonel Greenwood's operational success was only possible because of the tireless support he received at home from his wife, Kim, and son, Charlie. We often forget the hardship and extra load our military spouses and children take on during work-ups and deployments, and I thank Kim and Charlie for sharing their husband and father with our Nation. Military service is a family commitment, and I thank the Greenwoods for their many years of public service.

Colonel Greenwood, congratulations on a successful command and deployment. I am so proud of your many accomplishments and wish you and your family the very best in your next assignment.●

TRIBUTE TO JAKE HEINECKE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of rec-

ognizing Jake Heinecke, a law enforcement officer from Fergus County who retired from full-time service at the end of May. Deputy Heinecke spent two decades protecting and serving the people of Montana.

Deputy Heinecke was raised with a strong family background in law enforcement. His father was an instructor at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, and the calling to law enforcement was clearly a natural fit for Jake. During the midnineties, Deputy Heinecke began his career as a reserve deputy in Beaverhead County, nestled in the southwestern corner of Montana. He quickly transitioned to full-time law enforcement after finishing college and served Beaverhead County for 15 more years. During the final chapters of his full-time law enforcement career, Deputy Heinecke served the people of Fergus County, located in the geographic center of the State. Troy Eades, the Fergus County sheriff, described Deputy Heinecke's performance in the department with concise clarity, “Great job. Great officer.”

Despite retiring from full-time law enforcement, Jake plans to continue to play a role in the community by serving in the Central Montana Ambulance Service as a full-time EMT. Montanans appreciate the work of our law enforcement and emergency services professionals. When someone gives over two decades of their professional life to protect and serve others, that accomplishment deserves our sincere gratitude. Thanks, Jake, for helping keep “The Last Best Place” safe for all of us to enjoy.●

FIVE MILLIONTH SOLDIER COMPLETES BASIC TRAINING AT FORT JACKSON

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate South Carolina's Fort Jackson, as the 5 millionth soldier has just completed the Basic Combat Training, BCT, Program.

Fort Jackson is located in Columbia, SC, and has a deep and proud history. For 100 years, Fort Jackson has helped the U.S. Army train and fulfill needs for disciplined and skilled soldiers in times of war and peace. As the U.S. Army's largest location for BCT, Fort Jackson is responsible for training half of the entire Army's BCT population. Fort Jackson also provides an array of services outside of BCT, including the U.S. Army's Drill Sergeant School and Soldier Support Institute.

Today I join the citizens of South Carolina in recognizing Fort Jackson, the soldiers, civilians, and retirees employed there, and the soldiers who have been trained there. I also extend my deepest gratitude to these soldiers' families, as they have also served and sacrificed for our country. With the completion of each mission, Fort Jackson continues to make the Palmetto State and the U.S. Army proud. I will always be thankful for Fort Jackson's dedication to protecting our great Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE RIPICH

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Danielle Ripich, who is retiring from over a decade of service not only to students but also to the State of Maine as president of the University of New England, UNE, this month.

Even though Danielle is not a native of Maine, she has, in every regard, embraced, cherished, and served the State just as any Mainer would. Under her tenure, UNE grew from 4,000 students to more than 10,000, increased its operating surplus by \$127 million, expanded its campuses in Biddeford and Portland while opening a campus in Tangier, Morocco—making UNE the only U.S. institution of higher education to own a study-abroad campus specifically designed for the needs of science students—and launched three new colleges within the university. Additionally, in the midst of a national crisis over student loans, Danielle presided over one of the lowest default rates nationally on student loans at only 2.5 percent, even with 95 percent of students at the university taking out loans.

A native of Ohio, Danielle began her impressive scholarly journey on her home turf, receiving her Ph.D. in speech pathology from Kent State University and both her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech pathology from Cleveland State University. She then went on to serve in leadership roles at Case Western Reserve University and later became dean of the college of health professions, as well as a professor in the college of medicine's department of neurology at Medical University of South Carolina before joining UNE.

Danielle's accomplishments span beyond her work in higher education. As a result of her successful efforts in expanding both accessibility and opportunities at UNE for Maine's best and brightest, UNE's contribution to the Maine economy has topped more than \$1 billion per year, with an annual donation of more than \$21 million worth of health services to the community. The university is considered the leading supplier of healthcare professionals for the State of Maine. Danielle was named the 2016 Mainebiz Nonprofit Business Leader of the Year and is internationally recognized for her language research, particularly in the areas of child language and Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Adding to her already remarkable and diverse portfolio of accomplishments, she was named a congressional fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Throughout her years of service to the State, our country, and the world at large in her roles including president of UNE, mentor to student, and trailblazer in child language and Alzheimer's disease research, Danielle has demonstrated remarkable citizenship and a commitment to higher education, medicine, and community progress that is rarely seen. The UNE