

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all postcloture time on the Azar nomination expire at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow, January 24, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Azar nomination with no intervening action or debate; finally, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the Brownback nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 552. I ask consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, and the Senate resume consideration of the Brownback nomination.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

REMEMBERING GLENN CALEBS, SR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on November 16, 2017, Laurel County lost a beloved presence in their community with the passing of Glenn Calebs, Sr. He was 92 and dedicated his life to serving this country and those around him.

A Navy veteran of the Second World War and a member of the Greatest Generation, Glenn had a strong sense of patriotism. Those who knew him said he made it a priority to participate in the annual Veterans Day celebrations in Laurel County whenever possible. The judge-executive of Laurel County recalled that he knew he could count on Glenn to be at his side during the parade every year.

Members of the community knew how deeply Glenn cherished his family and his church. One of his friends said it best when he recalled to a local newspaper, "He was a true gentlemen

of Laurel County. . . . He was a pillar of the community and the community will miss him."

We are forever grateful for Glenn's service to our country at a time when we needed it most. I ask my colleagues to join Elaine and me as we send our condolences to his three children and four grandchildren. We hope that their fond memories of his selfless spirit will help them heal from their loss.

Mr. President, the Sentinel Echo recently published an article on Glenn's life and service. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Nov. 17, 2017]

CALEBS REMEMBERED

(By Nita Johnson)

Although his hair became a silvery white as the years went by, the smile and love for others that marked Glenn Calebs Sr. never did.

The 92-year-old World War II Navy veteran passed away on Wednesday at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, where he had been a patient for the past several weeks.

Calebs spent his life as a farmer after serving his country during the war. He was dedicated to his family, his church, and his community.

He was extremely proud of his military service. It was seldom that Calebs was not present for the annual Veterans Day activities at various locations in the area. In fact, his recent illness that kept him in Lexington during this year's Veterans Day celebrations was a source of worry for the elderly man.

Laurel County Judge Executive David Westerfield got emotional during this year's program, telling that since the ceremonies began six years ago there had been three people who rode in Westerfield's vehicle in the initial parades.

"I've always had Warren Scoville, my brother Johnny and Glenn Calebs ride with me," Westerfield said. "This year none of them are here."

Westerfield paid tribute to Calebs after hearing of his passing.

"Glenn Calebs was a very well respected individual in our community," he said. "He was a very close friend of mine that I enjoyed spending time with. He always went out of his way to help anyone. He proudly served his country and was always involved in our Veterans' parade each year.

"Ironically, my last conversation with Glenn was a phone call he made to me a little over two weeks ago, letting me know that he wouldn't be able to attend the Veterans Parade this year. He was so disappointed that he wouldn't be able to be there,

"I will always treasure his friendship and he will be greatly missed," Westerfield said.

That sentiment was seconded by Charlie Pennington, who served as a U.S. Marshal, board member of the London Laurel County Industrial Development Authority and its eventual director.

"He was a true gentleman of Laurel County," Pennington said. "They don't make them like that every day."

Pennington said he was more familiar with Calebs from his farming ventures.

"He made his presence known at Farmers Markets. He always raised a garden and had a big crop of tomatoes," he said.

"He had a daughter and two sons and all are fine people," Pennington added. "He was

a pillar of the community and the community will miss him."

REMEMBERING BUD HAYS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the life of Bud Hays of Knott County, KY, who passed away on November 21, 2017, at the age of 98. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Bud received multiple awards for his military service during World War II.

Born in Quicksand, KY, Bud was the youngest of a dozen children. The family moved to Hindman, KY, where Bud grew up in a small log cabin. He later enlisted in the Army at the age of 16. Serving on the front lines during the Second World War, Bud traveled around the world to Germany, Africa, and Australia in service to his Nation. Under the command of General Patton as an Army infantry medic, Bud risked his own life in order to save the lives of other soldiers. Bud was shot in the hand and, after being discharged, received the Purple Heart, Military Heart, and Bronze Star.

After World War II, Bud returned to Knott County, where he ran a grocery store, drove a school bus, and raised a family. Bud and his wife, Elouise, had four children: his son Doug, as well as his three daughters Kathy, Linda, and Marlene. Elaine and I send our condolences to their children, their family, and friends.

TRIBUTE TO STAN STEIDEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a legend in Kentucky's high school athletics, Coach Stan Steidel. This month, Dayton High School in Campbell County is marking Stan's decades of service to the school and its students by renaming the basketball court in his honor. I would like to join the community in thanking Stan for his support of Kentucky's student-athletes.

Stan, who graduated from Dayton High School in 1959, has spent more than 50 years in education, helping guide the next generation of Kentuckians to a bright future. Throughout his career, he has earned a long list of accolades as a coach, a teacher, an athletic director, and as an administrator.

In 1979, along with a group of coaches, Stan established Kentucky's "All A" Classic, a tournament for smaller schools. The first basketball tournament in 1980 hosted eight schools, all from northern Kentucky. Through the persistence of many individuals like Stan, the classic continued to grow. In 1990, the founders' dream became reality with a statewide tournament with the winning teams from 16 regions.

The classic has continued to develop, adding more sports, arts, academic team competition, and Junior ROTC tournaments. It has also grown as a program to help student-athletes compete at a collegiate level, giving more

than \$500,000 in scholarships to attend Kentucky schools. Because of Stan's passionate leadership, countless Kentucky students are able to hone their skills and compete across the Commonwealth.

I would like to congratulate Stan for this impressive honor and thank him for a career of dedicated service to young people throughout Kentucky. I am proud to join with the Kentucky athletic community in celebrating Stan's accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT "GIL"
VANOVER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Gilbert "Gil" Vanover, who has committed his life to serving the people of McCreary County, KY, and the country.

A Korean war veteran, Gil joined the U.S. Air Force in 1950 after he graduated from McCreary County High School. During a mission in a B-26 Bomber, Gil's plane was shot down, forcing him and his team to evacuate. Gil parachuted out of the plane and was later rescued by Allied Forces.

During his landing, Gil suffered several injuries, causing him to be discharged from the Air Force. However, that did not dissuade him from serving his country again, and he reenlisted. After 28 years of service to his Nation, he retired as a first sergeant at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Among his many well-earned recognitions, Gil was awarded the Bronze Star and the Cross of Gallantry Air Medal for his selfless military service to our country.

After his career in the Armed Forces, Gil returned back to his hometown to serve his community in a new way: as a teacher. He taught history for 15 years at McCreary County High School, the same school he had attended years before.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Gil for his bravery and perseverance in his service to our country, as well as his commitment to the next generation of his community in McCreary County. He is an inspiration to his students, neighbors, and all who seek to help others.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHEASTERN
KENTUCKY REHABILITATION INDUSTRIES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the work of the Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries, SEKRI, a nonprofit organization in Corbin, KY, which helps provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Before its founding in 1971, men and women with mental or physical disabilities in southeastern Kentucky often struggled to find real opportunities for employment. Since SEKRI was established, it has helped many men and women find work. Seventy-five percent of SEKRI's workforce is comprised of

individuals with disabilities who produce garments such as caps and protective gear for the Armed Forces. Today SEKRI has five plants, four of which are in Kentucky, and employs over 550 individuals throughout the region. SEKRI plans to open its sixth plant in Pineville, KY, this year.

For more than 45 years, SEKRI has helped hundreds of workers with disabilities in eastern Kentucky participate in the workforce. I would like to commend SEKRI for its many contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER MONDALE

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I would like to celebrate Vice President Walter Mondale, who recently marked his 90th birthday. When Vice President Mondale was asked about the legacy of the Carter administration, he responded this way: "We told the truth, we obeyed the law and we kept the peace—and that's not bad." Not only was that description apt and characteristically humble, I submit that it captures Walter Mondale's values and virtues.

First, Walter Mondale tells the truth. And aren't we so sorely in need of this today? Sometimes, when Mr. Mondale told the truth, it was painful. And sometimes, when he told the truth, he paid a political price. But truth in public service is a luminous thing, and Walter Mondale has always shone brightly.

Honesty was taught early by his parents, Theodore, a Methodist minister, and Claribel, a music teacher. An old friend of Mondale's once observed that he would often ask, "I wonder what my mother's going to think about that?" Well, his mother did not see her son become Vice President and ambassador, and Reverend Mondale did not see him become attorney general and Senator, but I suspect, he thinks about them still.

Second, Walter Mondale respects the rule of law and lives the rule of law. And aren't we so sorely in need of this today?

Not surprisingly, one of Fritz and Joan Mondale's favorite movies was "A Man for All Seasons," in which Sir Thomas More famously observes that, when the last law is down and the Devil turns on you, there is no place to hide. In other words, the rule of law protects all of us.

You might say, well, respect for the law is just the baseline we might expect of the most famous graduate of the University of Minnesota's law school—now Mondale Hall—who went on to become the State's chief lawyer; yet we have seen that even prominent public officials, trained in the law, can cut corners when tempted by money or power.

Walter Mondale has never cut corners. In both his private life and his public life, this is a man who has always turned square corners.

Finally, Walter Mondale works for peace. And aren't we so sorely in need of this today?

We know of the Vice President's important role in the Camp David Peace Accords and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. We know of his role as ambassador to one of our most important allies. But when we think of Walter Mondale and peace, we must think also of his goal of community reconciliation through civil rights. As the lead author of the Fair Housing Act, for more than half a century, he has fought for equity and fairness.

Yes, Walter Mondale tells the truth, obeys the law, and works for peace. That, I would suggest, is not just "not bad"; it is wonderful and extraordinary.

As I recognize Vice President Mondale and his contributions to this country, I wish him a happy birthday.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARGARET SOONG
MEOW LEE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Margaret Soong Meow Lee, a remarkable educator, researcher, and family woman. Sadly, Mrs. Lee passed away on August 1, 2017. She will be remembered for her dedication to helping others as well as for her invaluable contributions to the field of forensic science.

Mrs. Lee was born in Sarawak, Malaysia, and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in education from Taiwan Normal University. Subsequently, she received a master's degree in education from Long Island University and a postgraduate certificate from Seton Hall University in bilingual and multilingual education.

Mrs. Lee became a teacher and ultimately an assistant high school principal in Sarawak and served as the commissioner of women's affairs. She brought her love for educating others to the United States and continued teaching in New York. Her impressive career in the New York City public school system lasted nearly a decade.

After moving to Connecticut, Mrs. Lee worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Haven as a computer programming analyst for 20 years. Her exemplary work at the VA hospital still benefits that facility.

Mrs. Lee's extraordinary life's work includes her husband's career as well. As the wife of Dr. Henry C. Lee, the founder of the University of New Haven's Institute of Forensic Science and internationally renowned forensic scientist, Mrs. Lee accompanied her husband to hundreds, if not thousands, of his lectures. Throughout the course of his distinguished criminal justice career, Dr. Lee received unflinching support and assistance from his wife. They traveled the world together, with Mrs. Lee serving as a trusted sounding