

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we are going to vote on Marvin Quattlebaum to be a circuit judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit in Richmond, VA. He is a South Carolina native and a district court judge in South Carolina. I have known Marvin for well over 20 years. He is one of the most capable lawyers I have ever met. He has a great reputation as a district court judge.

I thank President Trump for nominating him. I thank my Senate colleagues for moving his nomination forward. He will be a great addition to the Fourth Circuit. He is a very sound, conservative judge who is incredibly fairminded. To my Democratic colleagues who moved his nomination through the Judiciary Committee, thank you.

Later in the day, we will vote on cloture on the nomination of Jay Richardson, also from South Carolina, to be on the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, VA. He was reported out of committee 20 to 1. Both gentlemen are rated unanimously “well-qualified” by the ABA. Jay is one of the great legal minds of our time, and I think he is going to be a great addition to the Fourth Circuit.

He prosecuted the Dylann Roof case, the man who killed the nine parishioners at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. I recommend that you take time to listen to his arguments about that case if you ever get a chance. It is very eloquent.

Both of these fine men come from South Carolina, and I urge my colleagues to vote affirmative when that time comes. I do want to again thank President Trump. Senator SCOTT and I both highly recommend to our colleagues “yes” votes for Mr. Quattlebaum and Mr. Richardson in just a minute.

I thank Senator McCONNELL for moving these nominations forward and Senator GRASSLEY for making sure they got out of committee.

With that, I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the

Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Gardner	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Nelson
Bennet	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hassan	Perdue
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heitkamp	Reed
Capito	Heller	Risch
Carper	Hoeven	Roberts
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Isakson	Sasse
Coons	Johnson	Scott
Corker	Jones	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kaine	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	King	Tester
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Leahy	Warner
Donnelly	Manchin	Whitehouse
Enzi	McCaskill	
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—28

Blumenthal	Harris	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Markley	Udall
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	
Gillibrand	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Lee	Tillis
Durbin	McCain	Toomey
Flake	Murray	
Inhofe	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative 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 Julius Ness Richardson, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt.

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 Julius Ness Richardson, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Feinstein	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Murphy
Bennet	Gardner	Nelson
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Booker	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Harris	Peters
Brown	Hassan	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Reed
Cantwell	Heinrich	Risch
Capito	Heitkamp	Roberts
Cardin	Heller	Rounds
Carper	Hoeven	Sasse
Casey	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Shaheen
Coons	Jones	Shelby
Corker	Kaine	Smith
Cornyn	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Klobuchar	Tester
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Leahy	Udall
Daines	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Duckworth	McConnell	
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NAYS—10

Blumenthal	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Sanders	Wyden
Hirono	Schatz	
Markey	Van Hollen	

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Lee	Tillis
Durbin	McCain	Toomey
Flake	Murray	
Inhofe	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 80, the nays are 10.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julius Ness Richardson, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m. today.

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

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate today to express myself on Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who has been named by President Trump to the Supreme Court of the United States, subject to the confirmation of the U.S. Senate.

Probably the most serious responsibility all of us have is the confirmation of those who are appointed to lifetime appointments in the judiciary and certain other high places in our government. It is a responsibility that should be treasured, respected, and never abused or never trivialized.

President Trump has done what every President has done in the past: He has nominated the best available—Brett Kavanaugh, who stands before this Senate today. There is no better person for the job on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Brett Kavanaugh is the real deal. He is the real deal, and he went to Yale. That doesn't make him great. I think the University of Georgia is great, myself. But the Yankees have been bragging about Yale, so we always say nice things about them. He is very smart. He graduated cum laude from Yale.

He has trained so many young lawyers in his career, it is not even funny. He has had so many clerk with him. He has written so much that has been copied by other courts and adopted as a part of law; it is a great testimony to his ability and his intellect.

He served several years as a partner at Kirkland & Ellis, a private firm. He served as a clerk at the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. He has been a teacher and today teaches at Harvard University in the Samuel Williston lecture series and was nominated by Elena Kagan, a member of the U.S. Supreme Court.

He is the real deal in a lot of ways, and I want to take a minute to share why I am going to vote for him. I want somebody on the Supreme Court who understands me—an average American, somebody who has a family, two kids, works for a living, loves their country, and would do the right thing and will not do it for any other reason than to do the right thing.

My motto in life has always been Mark Twain's quote: When confronted with a difficult decision, do what is

right. You will surprise a few, but you will amaze the rest. Doing the right thing is the right thing to do every time, but it is the hardest thing to do almost any time. In fact, as my father used to say: Son, do what you want to do when nobody is looking, and when nobody is looking, do the same thing you do when they are looking because you always want to do the right thing regardless of the question and regardless of what answer you have to give.

The Supreme Court is a tremendous responsibility in our government. It is one-third of our government. We have a three-legged school of government: the bureaucracy—we are in the legislative branch; the executive branch, which the President runs; but the Supreme Court is the ultimate arbiter. I want a level-headed person who understands me making those decisions.

I think the following qualifies as a level-headed person: More than a dozen times, his opinions have been endorsed by the U.S. Supreme Court. His 100 most cited opinions have been cited by more than 210 judges across the country. More than 50 circuit court opinions discuss or cite one of his concurrences or dissents. Of his 48 clerks, 39 have gone on to clerk for the Supreme Court of the United States. One of his clerks, Britt Grant from Georgia, was confirmed last week by this U.S. Senate to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. That is a pretty high testament to a man of his youth and a man of his experience.

He has two beautiful children, a lovely wife, and is a committed family man. But let me tell you what makes him special: He is not pretentious. My first meeting with him was an odd meeting. It was a rare meeting. It was on the first floor outside of the elevators coming to this Chamber. I had just come in from the rain. I was standing there, trying to get myself halfway dried off, and there came a slew of police. I figured the President was coming. You know, they always run us out of there. The cops came in, and the dogs came in—and everybody else. All of a sudden, there was a guy; at first, I didn't recognize him. Then I realized, with all the press trying to get up close to him, he must be somebody really important. He wasn't us; he was Brett Kavanaugh.

He saw me. He stopped, came over, and said: JOHNNY, how are you doing? That impressed me a lot. Of course, I know he had been back there studying, just like the pages, so you can remember who we are, so you can say our name, and it is a good thing to do. He talked to me as though I was his long-lost friend. He stopped, and we talked for 4 or 5 minutes.

Two days later, when we came to my office and we talked again, we talked about family, we talked about food, we talked about fun, we talked about the United States of America, and we talked about the greatness and potential of our country and its future. We

talked about everything we loved about it and what we would do to protect it, save it, and how we both felt honored to be in the positions we were in.

Toward the end of the conversation, I said: Now, one thing about it, Mr. Kavanaugh, I understand you had a little issue with buying season tickets to the baseball games. In fact, the first thing Democrats came up with is that he makes too much money or he has too much money because he bought season tickets and used his credit card. I don't think that is a dumb idea. I think that is a compliment—a guy who loves baseball, loves politics, and loves America. It doesn't get any better than that.

So I am going to vote for Brett Kavanaugh to confirm him to the U.S. Supreme Court because he is a regular guy, he is a brilliant man, he cares about his country deeply, he believes in this country, and he feels a responsibility that he wants to assume at this time in life. I can't think of any better reasons to vote for him.

I am going to vote for him with pride, and I urge all my fellow Senators in the U.S. Senate to join me as well.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States. One of the great privileges we have in the U.S. Senate is the responsibility of confirming nominees a President puts forward for this awesome lifetime responsibility on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Likewise, nominating Justices to the Supreme Court is one of the most important responsibilities the Constitution bestows upon the President of the United States. President Trump knows this, obviously, and has clearly taken this charge very seriously.

Last year, President Trump made an outstanding choice in nominating Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court. I remember the debate on this floor, and I am delighted with his performance since he has been on the U.S. Supreme Court. President Trump has again put forward an impressive nominee in Judge Brett Kavanaugh for this awesome responsibility on the U.S. Supreme Court.

A former clerk for Justice Anthony Kennedy, Judge Kavanaugh is an accomplished, experienced jurist with over 300 published opinions. More than 50 circuit court opinions cite one of his concurrences or dissents, and the Supreme Court has actually endorsed his opinions more than a dozen times.