

[Rollcall Vote No. 204 Ex.]

## YEAS—79

Alexander	Flake	Murphy
Baldwin	Gardner	Murray
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cantwell	Heller	Rubio
Capito	Hirono	Sasse
Cardin	Hoeven	Schumer
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Casey	Isakson	Shelby
Cassidy	Johnson	Smith
Collins	Jones	Sullivan
Coons	Kaine	Tester
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cortez Masto	King	Tillis
Cotton	Klobuchar	Toomey
Crapo	Kyl	Udall
Donnelly	Lankford	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Leahy	Warner
Durbin	Lee	Whitehouse
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Ernst	McCaskill	Young
Feinstein	McConnell	
Fischer	Murkowski	

## NAYS—12

Booker	Menendez	Schatz
Gillibrand	Merkley	Stabenow
Harris	Peters	Warren
Markey	Sanders	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Daines	Nelson
Corker	Inhofe	Perdue
Cruz	Moran	Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert R. Summerhays, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Summerhays nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric C. Tostrud, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Tostrud nomination?

The nomination was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alan D. Albright, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Albright nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1013.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Roy Blunt, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, Rob Portman, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

## GUATEMALA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the decision, announced last Friday, by Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales to not renew the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, CICIG, after its current term expires next September, was a profound mistake.

That mistake was further compounded on Tuesday when the government announced that the CICIG Commissioner, Ivan Velasquez, a respected Colombian jurist, had been summarily declared a "national security threat" and barred from reentering the country. That is the kind of fear-provoking mischaracterization one might expect from an authoritarian government that will use any outlandish justification to silence its critics but not from a democracy.

I urge President Morales to reconsider and to reverse these actions for the benefit of the Guatemalan people, in the interests of justice and on behalf of Guatemala's relations with the United States and its international reputation. There may still be time to turn this political and judicial crisis into a positive outcome for the country.

At the time of his public announcement to not renew CICIG, President Morales was joined on the podium by dozens of uniformed military and police officers. At the same time, military vehicles carrying officers armed with heavy weapons—vehicles provided by the United States for legitimate law enforcement purposes—lined the street in front of CICIG's office. They also drove past the Constitutional Court and the U.S. Embassy. It was an intimidating display reminiscent of the 1970s and 1980s, and the intended message was clear: The commanders of Guatemala's security forces—which in recent years have been reliable partners with the United States—have sided with those in power to shut down the only credible mechanism for combating the corruption and impunity that plague that country.

Not yet determined is the fate of CICIG's 45 or so international lawyers and investigators, whose work permits have expired. If Commissioner Velasquez is not allowed to return and CICIG's other employees are forced to leave the country, CICIG will, for all practical purposes, cease to exist.

President Morales's decision to do away with CICIG in a manner that the U.N. Secretary General says "does not appear to be consistent with the Agreement on the establishment of CICIG" was reportedly precipitated by a decision of the Supreme Court, days earlier, to refer to Congress a petition by the Attorney General and CICIG to lift President Morales's immunity for violating campaign financing laws. It appears that President Morales is more

concerned with his own legal vulnerability and that of his supporters than upholding the institutions of justice.

It is also increasingly apparent that this attack on CICIG is only part of a broader attempt that has been gaining steam over the better part of a year to destroy the independence of the constitutional court, weaken civil society, intimidate human rights defenders and journalists, and undermine the rule of law. It is an existential confrontation between the forces of corruption and impunity and Guatemala's fledgling judicial institutions.

Ever since CICIG was established 11 years ago to help combat the pervasive corruption, infiltration by organized crime, and near total impunity in Guatemala, the State Department and the U.S. Embassy have consistently supported CICIG, as have Republicans and Democrats in Congress. We are all familiar with the historical links between organized crime, drug traffickers, Guatemala's security forces, and public officials. It has been widely recognized by the Guatemalan people that, because of CICIG and Guatemala's Public Ministry, working together, the cause of justice—including convictions of corrupt senior government officials—has been significantly enhanced. Without CICIG, these achievements would not have been possible.

On Saturday, September 1, Secretary Pompeo responded to President Morales's announcement with a bizarre tweet that did not even mention CICIG. Instead, the Secretary expressed appreciation for Guatemala's "efforts in counternarcotics and security." That is a bit like being told that the courthouse is on fire and responding that the stock market is up. The State Department should condemn what is occurring in Guatemala, reaffirm its support for CICIG and Commissioner Velasquez, and make clear that corrupt Guatemalan officials will be sanctioned under U.S. law. Otherwise, it will share complicity in the unraveling of years of U.S. investment in CICIG and in judicial and law enforcement reform in Guatemala.

Perhaps the State Department is worried that, if President Morales is prosecuted and convicted of campaign financing violations and removed from office the way his predecessor was, U.S. security cooperation with Guatemala might suffer. What it really should be worried about is what will happen to the fight against corruption and organized crime if President Morales succeeds in dismantling CICIG. If the country loses its most effective anticorruption institution, the progress that has been made in recent years in strengthening the rule of law is likely to be reversed, allowing drug cartels and other criminal organizations to grow unchecked. This is particularly alarming with national elections in Guatemala scheduled for next year. The integrity of Guatemala's democratic process—not simply the

survival of CICIG—is threatened by the corrupt influences of organized crime.

Like any institution, CICIG is not without imperfections. Several constructive reforms have been proposed, and I have encouraged CICIG, the United Nations, and the Guatemalan Government to find a way forward that strengthens oversight and transparency while preserving CICIG's mandate and protecting the Commissioner from political interference. While that process has been eclipsed by recent events, there is still time to resurrect it. The United Nations, the United States, other governments that have supported CICIG, and the Guatemalan Government should urgently resume discussions to achieve such a solution.

Ultimately, if other attempts fail, the future of CICIG, of its Commissioner and employees, and of the rule of law in Guatemala—not just under President Morales who has just over a year left to serve but also in the years ahead—will be in the hands of the Guatemalan people, the judiciary, and the Congress. As a former prosecutor and the senior member of our Judiciary Committee, I have long recognized that an independent judiciary is a cornerstone of democratic government. It is what gives practical meaning to the phrase "rule of law," which is fundamental to strengthening democracy. To its credit, Guatemala's constitutional court has displayed that independence in the past. That independence is needed today.

As a result of President Morales's actions, security cooperation with Guatemala and loans from international financial institutions are now in jeopardy. That is not in the interests of Guatemala or the United States. Recognizing what is at stake and in support of the courageous Guatemalans who are defending the Constitution and the rule of law, I will not support the expenditure of U.S. funds for assistance for the Guatemalan Government under the Alliance for Prosperity, including for the military and police forces, until the fate of CICIG and Commissioner Velasquez is satisfactorily resolved.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE JOHNSON

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, Today I wish to honor a White Sulphur Springs native who not only completed groundbreaking work at NASA during the space race, but who also broke the barriers of race and gender during a critical time in our Nation.

Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson was blessed with a natural talent for mathematics which far exceeded that of her peers. By the age of 13, Katherine was already attending high school on West Virginia State College's campus where, in 1937, she received a B.S. in both mathematics and French.

In 1939, when West Virginia began to integrate its graduate schools, West Virginia State's president, Dr. John Davis, personally selected Katherine and two male students as the first Afri-

can-American students to attend West Virginia University.

After starting a family, Katherine found work at the West Area Computing section of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' Langley laboratory, headed by fellow West Virginian Dorothy Vaughan. The 1957 launch of the Soviet satellite, Sputnik, changed history—and Katherine's life. Her work on the equations to describe an orbital spaceflight in which the landing position of the spacecraft is specified led to Katherine being the first woman recognized as an author of a report from the flight research division.

As NASA prepared for the orbital mission with John Glenn in 1962, Katherine was famously asked to run the orbital equations controlling the Friendship 7 trajectory by hand in case of a mechanical computing error. Katherine has recalled John Glenn saying that, if she said the numbers were good, then he was good to go. The mission was a success and marked a tremendous turning point in the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union in space.

Katherine's story inspired the book, "Hidden Figures," by Margot Lee Shetterly and also the Oscar-nominated film of the same name.

Recently, 46 of my colleagues and I introduced the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden in recognition for their contributions to NASA's success during the space race. In 2015, President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

A bronze statue in Katherine's honor now stands on the campus of West Virginia State University. It is my hope that the students who pass it every day will be reminded of Katherine's legacy and will be inspired to keep their passion for knowledge alive.

Every one of our female leaders in West Virginia are the epitome of strength, leadership, and advancement in their fields. They serve as inspiring role models for the next generation, and that is due in great part to the women who broke ground in generations past. Because of the accomplishments of intellectual leaders such as Katherine, more young women have and will blaze their own trails in the fields of science, math, engineering, and technology and will continue to make our State and entire Nation proud.

It is an honor to recognize Katherine's legacy and to wish her the very best as we celebrate her 100th birthday.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANNE HOUSER

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as ranking member on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,