

Let's be clear what is going on. The flow of drugs and human trafficking on our border are completely unacceptable. Everybody in this body agrees with that, demonstrated by the fact that 43 Democrats actually voted for a \$25 billion border security package earlier this year. There is no way you can avoid admitting that. This has to stop.

The undampened flow of illegal drugs has created a crisis in our country. The fact that we sit here and are more concerned about the political realities in Washington than we are about stopping human trafficking across our southern border is totally unacceptable. An open border goes against the very ideas of why our country was founded. It totally undercuts American sovereignty. The American people know that. They are fed up with the status quo, and I can tell you, firsthand, so is President Donald Trump.

The Dems are very clear. My colleagues have demonstrated that they prefer open borders, illegal drug transfers, and human trafficking to a commonsense protection of our southern border.

We know fences work. I have been to countries around the world where they are protecting their borders with simple fences where they need them.

We have multiple approaches to defending our southern border. We have many miles right now that already have similar fences up that deter illegal crossings.

At the same time, this President has shown over and over again that he will work with our colleagues across the aisle to find some common solution here that we can all live with. He is ready to make a deal today. In fact, as we speak, the Vice President, the President, and the Chief of Staff are in the White House right now; the leader of the Democratic Party in the Senate is, right now, negotiating.

This needs to get done. I have done dozens of these in my career, and looking at what is important to both parties, there is no reason this can't get done.

I believe the President is ready to make a deal to fully fund the Federal Government—the last 25 percent. Let's remember how we got there. This body, the Senate and the House, did something they haven't done in 22 years, and that is fund at least 75 percent of our Federal Government on time. That was by September 30. We are here, at the end of our first quarter of the next fiscal year, still trying to fund the last 25 percent because of this controversy over the border wall.

The first number was \$25 billion, as I said, which was agreed to by the other side. Then, there was another \$5 billion offered. Lastly, the President, I thought, had a deal earlier this week with our colleagues across the aisle for \$1.6 billion. That deal was taken away.

We are right now, I think, experiencing the second Schumer shutdown of this year. The first was over the DACA controversy. President Trump

took the Democratic request for 600,000 work permits for an indefinite period of time and changed that and made an offer of a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million DACA recipients. He took a chance with the ultraright in our party, the conservative part of the party. He took a chance and stood up and said: This is the right thing to do, if it is paired with the right deal on the other side.

I believe there is no reason we can't get this package done right now. I think the President agrees with that. I think the Democratic leader agrees with that. But prior to yesterday, for a few days, there was no one talking.

I give Mick Mulvaney and the Vice President a lot of credit. I know that the Vice President was in this building until about 9:30 last night negotiating this. I just believe it is time to get this done.

NANCY PELOSI, in the House, repeatedly said that President Trump couldn't get the votes from the House to pass a funding package that included these border security priorities. We now know she was wrong. The votes were there. The House has sent a bill back over here that not only has border security but a relief package—a serious relief package for hurricane victims, disaster relief victims, and the wildfire victims in California.

The U.S. Senate should have included President Trump's priorities from the very beginning. Now this body has a chance to do the right thing.

It is time to get this done. We are here. Let's get a deal, bring it back in here, pass it, get it back to the House, and let's stop this nonsense. Let's not yield to political self-interest on either side.

I implore all of us who have influence with the people who are negotiating this: Let's get beyond this. This is so close. There is no reason we are sitting here, letting America be nervous about whether we are going to get this done. This should have been done back in September, as I said earlier. Now let's focus on our national interests, the things we are all called to do in our oath of office: Protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. Let's fully fund this government—the last 25 percent—move past this, secure our border, and provide disaster relief for the people who have a timely need, right now, for us to do that.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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 (Mr. PERDUE). 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 Calendar Nos. 1204, 1206 through 1215, and 1228 through 1232; 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; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### *To be brigadier general*

Col. David W. Abba  
Col. Christopher R. Amrhein  
Col. Charles D. Bolton  
Col. Larry R. Broadwell, Jr.  
Col. Terry L. Bullard  
Col. Scott A. Cain  
Col. Jimmy R. Canlas  
Col. Julian C. Cheater  
Col. Roy W. Collins  
Col. Colin J. Connor  
Col. Donald J. Cothorn  
Col. David S. Eaglin  
Col. Steven G. Edwards  
Col. Troy L. Endicott  
Col. Gregory J. Gagnon  
Col. Richard W. Gibbs  
Col. Jennifer L. Grant  
Col. Stewart A. Hammons  
Col. Robert S. Jobe  
Col. John M. Klein, Jr.  
Col. Gregory Kreuder  
Col. Benjamin R. Maitre  
Col. Matteo G. Martemucci  
Col. Caroline M. Miller  
Col. David A. Mineau  
Col. Paul J. Murray  
Col. Ty W. Neuman  
Col. John P. Newberry  
Col. Jefferson J. O'Donnell  
Col. Thomas B. Palenske  
Col. Evan L. Pettus  
Col. Christopher S. Povak  
Col. Bradley L. Pyburn  
Col. Chad D. Raduege  
Col. Michael T. Rawls  
Col. Ryan R. Samuelson  
Col. David J. Sanford  
Col. David G. Shoemaker  
Col. Rebecca J. Sonkiss  
Col. Claude K. Tudor, Jr.  
Col. Daniel H. Tulley  
Col. Jeffery D. Valenzia  
Col. John C. Walker  
Col. Steven P. Whitney

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

#### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Bradley S. James

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the

grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Duke Z. Richardson  
IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Kevin D. Admiral  
Col. Timothy D. Brown  
Col. Joshua M. Rudd  
Col. Paul T. Stanton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Terry R. Ferrell

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Timothy D. Connolly

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Gerald R. Krimbill

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Stacy M. Babcock

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Eric J. Wesley

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Andrew P. Poppas  
IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Robert D. Sharp

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Richard D. Clarke

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the

Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Scott C. Bridgers  
Col. Thomas D. Crimmins  
Col. Thomas B. Hatley  
Col. Scott A. Howard  
Col. Patrick M. Kennedy  
Col. Robert G. Kilgore  
Col. William A. Kinnison, Jr.  
Col. Terrence L. Koudelka, Jr.  
Col. Kerry R. Lovely  
Col. Brian T. McHenry  
Col. Barbara C. Morrow  
Col. Duke M. Ota, Jr.  
Col. Louis J. Perino  
Col. Erik A. Peterson  
Col. Troy E. Pou  
Col. Michael L. Reid  
Col. John P. Russo  
Col. Torrence W. Saxe  
Col. David A. Smith  
Col. Thomas M. Suelzer  
Col. Taison K. Tanaka  
Col. Justin R. Walrath

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. John D. Caine  
Brig. Gen. Larry K. Clark  
Brig. Gen. Sean T. Collins  
Brig. Gen. John P. Hronek, II  
Brig. Gen. Wendy K. Johnson  
Brig. Gen. Gregory F. Jones  
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. LaBarge  
Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Lambe  
Brig. Gen. Timothy T. Lunderman  
Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Owens, II  
Brig. Gen. Greg A. Semmel  
Brig. Gen. Brian M. Simpler

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Steven D. Michaud  
Col. Raymond H. Siegfried, II

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of PN Nos. 2507, 2626, 2638, 2639, 2670, 2671; that the nominations be confirmed; that 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; and 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:

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271(e):

*To be commander*

Douglas M. Salik

The following named officer for appointment to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 53(b):

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Rear Adm. Matthew W. Sibley

The following named officers of the Coast Guard permanent commissioned teaching staff for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grades indicated under title 14, U.S.C., sections 189 and 276:

*To be captain*

ANNA W. HICKEY

*To be commander*

VICTORIA C. FUTCH

The following named officer of the United States Coast Guard to the position of Coast Guard Band Director to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 336(b):

*To be commander*

Adam R. Williamson

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203(A):

*To be captain*

MARC C. DEVEREAUX  
LAILA M. GRASSLEY  
GRETCHEN A. JONES  
PAUL G. MORRIS  
MICHAEL E. RUWE  
JOHN R. SETTLE III  
MICHAEL N. ST. JEANOS  
KIRSTEN R. TREGO  
MICHAEL R. VAUGHN  
CRAIG L. WENNET

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271(E):

*To be captain*

GRETCHEN M. BAILEY  
ALAIN V. BALMACEDA  
MICHELLE C. BAS  
IAN A. BASTEK  
MICHAEL W. BATCHELDER  
KENNETH J. BODA  
ROY R. BRUBAKER  
JOANN F. BURDIAN  
ANDREW T. CAMPEN  
CHRISTOPHER R. CEDERHOLM  
BRADLEY CLARE  
ROBERT C. COMPHER  
CHAD W. COOPER  
NATHAN E. COULTER  
CHARLES C. CULOTTA  
FRANCIS J. DELROSSO, JR.  
JOHN T. DEWEY  
JEROME E. DUBAY  
TIMOTHY W. EASON  
JANET D. ESPINOYOUNG  
SARAH K. FELGER  
KEVIN D. FLOYD  
JAMES G. FORGY  
TED R. FOWLES  
PAUL E. FRANTZ  
MICHAEL E. FRAWLEY  
MICHAEL R. GESELE  
HANS C. GOVERTSEN  
CHARLES M. GUERRERO  
TOBY L. HOLDRIDGE  
BRIAN P. HOPKINS  
CHRISTOPHER M. HUBERTY  
AUSTIN R. IVES  
DANIEL C. JONES  
SEAN R. KATZ  
JARED E. KING  
CASSIE A. KITCHEN  
PERRY J. KREMER  
TIMOTHY R. LAVIER  
JACQUELINE M. LEVERICH  
LEXIA M. LITTLEJOHN  
CHAD A. LONG  
HARRY D. MAUTTE