

of Patrick Fuchs, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for the term of five years and Martin J. Oberman, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2023.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; 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 nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fuchs and Oberman nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 1016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination of Daniel Simmons, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous 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.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 1108, 1110, and 1112.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Casey Wardynski, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; Alex A. Beehler, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; and Alan Ray Shaffer, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no inter-

vening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; 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 nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wardynski, Beehler, and Shaffer nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 1041, 1124, 1125, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Foreign Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations of Ellen E. McCarthy, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research); RON JOHNSON, of Wisconsin, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Seventy-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; JEFF MERKLEY, of Oregon, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Seventy-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Michael T. Harvey, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; Lucy Tamlyn, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia; Craig Lewis Cloud, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana; Judith Gail Garber, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus; Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali; Simon Henshaw, of Massa-

chusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea; William H. Moser, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan; Michael Peter Pelletier, of Maine, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of the Comoros; Richard Carlton Paschall III, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia; Eric Williams Stromayer, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Togolese Republic; Eric George Nelson, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dennis Walter Hearne, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mozambique; Patricia Mahoney, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Benin; John Mark Pommersheim, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan; Susan N. Stevenson, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; Kyle McCarter, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya; Michael S. Klecheski, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mongolia; Matthew John Matthews, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign

Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam; Earle D. Litzenger, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Azerbaijan; Sarah-Ann Lynch, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana; Christopher Paul Henzel, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia; Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., of Tennessee, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of Australia; Bonnie Glick, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; Carol Z. Perez, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; 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 nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McCarthy, JOHNSON, MERKLEY, Harvey, Tamlyn, Blome, Cloud, Garber, Hankins, Henshaw, Moser, Pelletier, Paschall, Stromayer, Nelson, Hearne, Mahoney, Pommersheim, Stevenson, McCarter, Klecheski, Matthews, Litzenger, Lynch, Henzel, Tracy, Culvahouse, Glick, Perez nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The further nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN2131-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Michael Ashkouri, and ending John H. Piggott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 11, 2018.

PN2369 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Daniel Mark Smolka, which was received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2018.

PN2370 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (171) beginning James Robert Adams, and ending Christopher M. Zveare, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2018.

PN2541 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (54) beginning Sandi R. B. Allaway, and ending Shirlene Yee, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 24, 2018.

PN2570 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (193) beginning Zachary Maxwell Aberman, and ending Daniella Jaoska Zelaya, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 5, 2018.

PN2571 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Mark A. Dries, and ending Ralph K. Bean, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 5, 2018.

PN2622-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (176) beginning Kelly E. Adams-Smith, and ending Jorge R. Vazquez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2018.

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.

TREATY WITHDRAWALS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to call attention to President Trump's recent decisions to withdraw or threaten U.S. withdrawal from four treaties: the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, INF Treaty; the Universal Postal Union, UPU, treaty; the Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, "VCDR Option Protocol"; and the Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights between the United States and Iran, "Treaty of Amity". The President made these decisions without notice or meaningful consultation with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the congressional committee charged with responsibility and jurisdiction over treaties.

As the ranking member of that committee, I am compelled to strenuously object to the manner in which the President has acted, but all Senators should protest, regardless of their views on the substance of the respective agreements. The President's actions erode the constitutional powers of this body and our institutional prerogatives.

Article 2 of the Constitution endows the President and the Senate with shared power over treaties. The President, it states, "shall have power, by

and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur."

While the Constitution does not expressly dictate a procedure for terminating treaty relationships, Senators have long asserted that the shared treaty power extends to withdrawal and therefore also requires Senate advice and consent. Even though the executive branch may not agree with this position, what is unacceptable is that Senators are first learning about these withdrawals online or in the newspaper instead of through proactive outreach by and meaningful dialogue with the executive branch.

President Trump has regrettably shown exceedingly little respect for the Constitution and for the institutional prerogatives of this body. I stand today to highlight one area in which he has actively undermined the Senate's constitutional role and authority. I plan to do everything in my power to protect the Senate's role and responsibilities over treaties and urge all of my colleagues to join in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO ALISE ORLOFF

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, before the 115th Congress draws to a close, I want to recognize and thank Alise Orloff, who retired on July 1, 2017, after serving more than 36 years as a U.S. Capitol tour guide.

Alise is a proud Marylander and lifelong resident of Silver Spring. An alumna of Northwood High School, she graduated cum laude from the University of Maryland College Park in 1981 with a bachelor of science in education. While at UMCP, she was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in recognition of her academic excellence, integrity, and service to the community and into Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education.

Between her junior and senior years in college, in 1980, Alise worked as a seasonal Capitol guide and was invited to return for the summer of 1981. Although Alise received several job offers in teaching, she relished the opportunity she had at the Capitol to learn something new every day and to make a difference in the lives of visitors. On December 19, 1981, she became a full-time Capitol guide, first with the U.S. Capitol Guide Service and then, after the opening of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, with the Architect of the Capitol.

Capitol guides are Congress's frontline representatives to the visiting public. To a great extent, our visiting constituents' opinions of us are formed by their experiences on tours. Alise is a patriotic American who loves the Capitol Building and treasured the privilege and honor of working in it to educate people about our government. As a professional educator, she enjoyed researching and learning about Congress, art, architecture, history, and the legislative process. She could give an accurate and diplomatic answer to any