

Ruiz II, and Rodney Smith, each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, Thomas P. Barber, and Wendy Williams Berger, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, J. Campbell Barker, and A Michael J. Truncale, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Pamela A. Barker, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Kenneth D. Bell, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, Jean-Paul Boulee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Holly A. Brady, and A Damon Ray Leichty, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, Andrew Lynn Brasher, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Brian C. Buescher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, James David Cain, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Stephen R. Clark, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Clifton L. Corker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Daniel Desmond Domenico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Karin J. Immergut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Matthew J. Kacsmayk, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Corey Landon Maze, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, David Steven Morales, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Sarah Daggett Morrison, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Carl J. Nichols, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, J. Nicholas Ranjan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Wendy Vitter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, T. Kent Wetherell II, and Allen Cothrel Winsor, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, Joshua Wolson, and John Milton Younge, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Patrick R. Wyrick, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, M. Miller Baker, of Louisiana, and Timothy M. Reif, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Richard A. Hertling, of Maryland, and Ryan T. Holte, of Ohio, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 7, 2019, during the first vote to conduct an organizational hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 7, 2019, to conduct an organizational hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of PN 191, Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, referred to the Homeland Security Committee, upon reporting out be referred to the Judiciary Committee for a period not to exceed 60 calendar days, after which the nomination, if still in committee, be discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, February 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 47; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, and the filing deadline for first-degree amendments be at 4 p.m. on Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator CORNYN.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM BARR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a vote on William Barr to be the next Attorney General of the United States.

During his confirmation hearing a few weeks ago, we saw an articulate, measured, and highly capable individual. There is no question in my mind why two separate Presidents have selected him to lead the Department of Justice.

Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Barr has displayed both legal acumen and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law—a basic prerequisite to serve as the highest law enforcement officer in the country.

I will add that the Attorney General is a unique member of the Cabinet because, as I said, he is the chief law enforcement officer of the country, but he is also a political appointee of the President. It takes some skill to navigate that very thin line and to do it with distinction and honor—something that Mr. Barr has done before.

President George Herbert Walker Bush recognized the talent in Mr. Barr more than 25 years ago and nominated him for not one, not two, but three important roles in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Barr testified before the Judiciary Committee for each of these positions: Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, Deputy Attorney General, and, finally, Attorney General of the United States. All three times, he was unanimously approved by the Senate.

As impressive as Mr. Barr was during these confirmation hearings, he was even more impressive once he was actually on the job. It is clear he made a lasting impression on his colleagues at the Department of Justice.

A group of 120 former Justice Department and law enforcement officials have written a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee supporting Mr. Barr's nomination. The list includes former Attorneys General and Deputy Attorneys General, FBI Directors and Deputy Directors, a Department of Homeland Security Secretary, and a host of high-ranking DOJ officials.

They wrote: "Bill is that rare combination of intellect and principle who has served our country in the Department of Justice with great distinction and then excelled as a senior executive in the private sector."

They continued: "Bill also developed great partnerships with state and local law enforcement around the country through the Department's Executive Working Group, creating joint task forces to combat white collar crime, drug trafficking and violent crime across the nation."

Knowing that, it is no surprise he received the endorsement of several organizations that represent law enforcement, like the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Fraternal

Order of Police, the Major County Sheriffs of America, and the National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition, as well as others.

I quote our friend, the ranking member DIANNE FEINSTEIN herself, who said: "No one can say he isn't qualified."

We are fortunate to have such an individual who is willing to, once again, step back into the spotlight to serve his country. To me, that speaks volumes.

It would be the easiest thing in the world for Mr. Barr to say: Well, I have been there and done that. Now I have worked in the private sector, been a success, and I am ready to hang it up or at least enjoy my retirement years with my grandkids and my wife.

That is not Bill Barr. Bill Barr is a person driven by his sense of duty and his desire to serve the American people. To me, that is one of the distinctions about him that impresses me the most.

It would be easy for him to take a walk and to not accept this responsibility during these polarized times, but he is willing to serve, and I think we ought to embrace that willingness to serve and confirm him.

I was proud to support Mr. Barr's nomination in the Judiciary Committee today, and I look forward to voting yes on his nomination next week when we vote on it.

Although Mr. Barr's name has been in the headlines, there are also a number of well-qualified nominees for Federal judgeships across the United States who were reported out of the Judiciary Committee today, including four Texans. They are J. Campbell Barker and Michael Truncale to be U.S. district judges for the Eastern District of Texas, Matthew Kacsmayk to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Texas, and David Morales to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas. These individuals are principled and highly qualified for the Federal bench.

Senator CRUZ and I worked closely with our Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee—a bipartisan committee of the best lawyers in the State of Texas—to screen these individuals and then make recommendations to the White House. I am confident in their ability to serve Texans by faithfully applying the law, and I hope the Senate will move quickly to confirm them.

S. 47

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, finally, following the President's call for unity and bipartisanship in his State of the Union Address earlier this week, I am glad to see the Senate responding to that call and taking up legislation that we are currently on that has received broad bipartisan support in the Senate just today.

Near the end of the last Congress, the Senate and the House reached an agreement on a package of more than 100 individual lands bills that received broad bipartisan support. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and weren't able to get it done, but next week, we will have the opportunity to vote on this important piece of legislation and send this bipartisan bill to the President's desk and demonstrate, once again, to the American people—lest anybody be in doubt—that we are capable of working together in a bipartisan way in advancing the interests of the American people.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have been an advocate for America's outdoor sporting traditions and commonsense wildlife conservation policies. Enhancing and expanding sportsmen's access to Federal lands has been on Congress's to-do list for years, and this legislation will help make that a reality.

This package includes a series of bipartisan provisions negotiated over years, which will provide increased opportunities for sportsmen and sports-

women to utilize Federal lands for hunting and fishing. Those changes are coupled with additional ones for conserving and enhancing wildlife habitats to ensure we are protecting these lands for generations to come.

This legislation also authorizes dozens of land swaps—exchanges—and conveyances, which will deliver big changes to communities across the country, including in my State.

For example, the Lake Fannin recreation area was once a thriving tourist attraction for Texas, but, through the years, it has become dilapidated due to the inability of the Forest Service to properly do maintenance.

The county has now developed a comprehensive plan to manage that land for recreation, and this bill will restore local control to more than 2,000 acres in Fannin County, TX.

This legislation will also protect property owners along the Red River—the border between Texas and Oklahoma—who have faced uncertainty following a flawed Bureau of Land Management survey under the previous administration. This legislation will assure these landowners that the Federal Government has no rightful claim and will make no claim to their property.

Again, I look forward to debating this legislation in the coming days, and I hope we can pass this bill, which will allow for the responsible development and conservation of land across our country.

I see no Senators seeking the floor, so I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3 P.M.
MONDAY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 11, 2019, at 3 p.m.