

hate; we are all called to speak out against the darkness; we are all called to reject anti-Semitism; and we are all called to defend the vulnerable. As a body, we must answer that call.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE D. BENSON

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, today I come to the floor to celebrate the life and career of Bruce Davey Benson or, as so many people know, Bruce D. Benson or, to all of us, just Bruce.

I first met Bruce Benson in 1994. Now, he will not remember this at all, but I remember that I was a young college student at Colorado State University. We were in the parking lot before a game. I had the incredible honor of being one of the chosen ones to take the ram, our mascot, around the football team at the football game before sporting events throughout Colorado State University.

I remember, in 1994, when the campaign for Governor began, Bruce Benson threw his hat in the ring to run against Roy Romer. He was working the crowd at this Colorado State football game, and he came up to those of us who were the ram handlers that were with the mascot, shook our hands, and introduced himself. So from that moment, the first chance I got to meet Bruce Benson in 1994, I knew it was going to be an incredible opportunity and relationship that would lead into years of public service for myself because of how incredible his public service had been to the State of Colorado and the legacy he built.

This July, Bruce will be retiring as the president of the University of Colorado system, which currently oversees four campuses in Colorado: the University of Colorado Denver, CU Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and the CU Boulder campus—the campus where I earned my law degree.

He has a long history of bettering the lives of Coloradoans. Prior to his appointment as president of the University of Colorado, Bruce established himself in business, philanthropy, politics, and education.

Bruce graduated from the University of Colorado in 1964 with a bachelor of arts in geology and founded the Benson Mineral Group. This is a great story of somebody pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps—taking the education he was able to earn himself and using it to build an incredible life of opportunity for his family and the people of Colorado. What started out as a \$6,000 drilling rig on the back of his truck turned into a hugely successful operation, with a reach extending into banking, real estate, and even cable television.

Bruce prioritized his community and the education of others within it. Over the next 20 years, he would serve on the Colorado Commission of Higher Education, the board of trustees for the Metro State College of Denver, P-20

Education Coordinating Council, and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Higher Education for the 21st Century, all of which he chaired at one point.

He was involved in Colorado politics, serving as the chair for the Colorado Republican Party, helping to identify candidates and being an instrumental part in candidates' campaigns over many decades.

Bruce was appointed to the board of directors for the National Park Foundation and served on the National Endowment for the Humanities—a position that required his confirmation right here in front of the U.S. Senate.

I remember the work he did on education issues—lobbying other Senators, fighting for Colorado dollars, fighting for policies that would help better Children's Hospital in Colorado, and fighting for more funding for children's healthcare. After nearly 45 years in business in Colorado, Bruce was inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame in 2009.

There is a saying about President Franklin Roosevelt, FDR. One time when somebody was asked if they knew President Roosevelt, they said no, but they felt President Roosevelt knew them. I think that saying can be applied to Bruce Benson because even if you didn't know him or don't know him in Colorado, odds are, if you are a Coloradan, he has had a positive impact on your life. He welcomed diversity in the classroom, not only in background but also in thought. He never wanted the university to teach people what to think; he wanted the university to teach them how to think. Bruce learned long ago that he didn't know everything, but if you surround yourself with the best, the rest will follow.

A lot has changed over the last 10 years of his leadership, and so has the university and the State we both call home. We don't know where we would be today without Bruce's fierce work ethic and drive to educate those around him, but we know the future wouldn't be nearly as bright. For all this and so much more, we owe him a great many thanks.

To President Benson, thank you for your service to our great State of Colorado, and thank you for your friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all post cloture time is expired.

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

Mr. GARDNER. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Harris	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoehn	Rubio
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schatz
Cardin	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Casey	Jones	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sinema
Coons	King	Smith
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Tester
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	Young

NAYS—8

Gillibrand	Peters	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet	Booker
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays, please.

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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET)

and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Graham	Peters
Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Barrasso	Harris	Reed
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Boozman	Hirono	Rosen
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cardin	Jones	Scott (FL)
Carper	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Casey	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cassidy	King	Shelby
Collins	Klobuchar	Sinema
Coons	Lankford	Smith
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Enzi	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Paul	Young
Gardner	Perdue	

NAYS—3

Gillibrand	Sanders	Warren
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NOT VOTING—2

Bennet	Booker
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Joshua Wolson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Burr	Inhofe	Rounds
Capito	Isakson	Rubio
Carper	Johnson	Sasse
Casey	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	King	Shaheen
Coons	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Leahy	Sinema
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	McConnell	Thune
Cruz	McSally	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Toomey
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—33

Baldwin	Hassan	Sanders
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Udall
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden
Harris		

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet	Booker
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The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—VETO—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session to resume consideration of the veto message on S.J. Res. 7, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Veto message, a joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

(The remarks of Senator CORNYN pertaining to the submission of S. 1303 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Arkansas.

NATO

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization turned 70 last month. Congressional leaders invited NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to deliver an address before a joint meeting of Congress to mark the historic occasion.

The Secretary General began his speech with a vivid description of two monuments outside of the organization's headquarters in Belgium—one, a piece of the Berlin Wall and the other, a twisted steel beam from the north tower of the World Trade Center. Both serve a special purpose as powerful reminders for NATO members of where we have been and are going and our commitment to one another.

The United States and our transatlantic allies have seen the world change considerably during the seven decades of NATO's existence. The threat posed by the Soviet Union—one of the main reasons the alliance was formed—no longer exists, but the challenge of an increasing and hostile Russia has now taken its place.

Since Russia illegally annexed Crimea in 2014, Vladimir Putin has stepped up his acts of aggression by arming pro-Russia rebels in Ukraine, carrying out bombing campaigns on behalf of a murderous regime in Syria, and conducting cyber attacks on Western democracies.

Russia continues to seize land and expand its presence in Georgia, illegally occupying roughly 20 percent of Georgia's internationally recognized territory. On top of this, Russia has deployed mobile, nuclear-capable missiles in Europe. This clear violation of the INF Treaty will have long-term ramifications for NATO countries.

As the Secretary General stated in his joint session address, "an agreement that is only respected by one side will not keep us safe." We don't have to return to a Cold War era arms race as a result of Russia's actions. However, as Secretary General Stoltenberg noted, we must "prepare for a world without the INF Treaty and take the necessary steps to provide credible and effective deterrence."

While the threat posed by a resurgent Russia reinforces the need for a strong NATO, it is far from the only concern facing the alliance. China's expanding global influence and the aspirations of smaller rogue nations, like North Korea and Iran, will continue to challenge the West moving forward.

Additionally, while we have made great strides to eliminate ISIS on the battlefield, the threat posed by radical Islamic terrorists remains ever present and knows no boundaries.

The horrific Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka have been linked to the terror group, proving that it clearly continues to export its tactics and recruitment well beyond Syria and Iraq.

There is no doubt that Western democracies remain squarely on ISIS's target list. In fact, the propaganda arm of ISIS just released a video of the group's leader, where he makes that threat abundantly clear.

Amid all of these challenges, NATO stands as a very visible deterrent. When half of the world's military stands together, bad actors take notice. Collectively, NATO members also make up half of the world's economic