

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

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 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 Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL BAUER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Michael Bauer, who died in late August after a battle with cancer.

You couldn't miss Michael—he was the outspoken, critical ally of scores of boards and organizations in the LGBTQ community of Chicago; the first call they made when they needed an effective advocate. When the conversation turned to political friends and foes, issues of the moment and candidates in the hunt, he never had a private thought or waited his turn to share it. And when the music started, Michael was the first on the dance floor.

I met Michael more than 20 years ago as a downstate Congressman running for the U.S. Senate. After an introductory dinner with Michael, his partner, Roger, and my wife Loretta, Michael gave me a passing grade, but I always knew he liked Loretta more.

His name was first on the list of must-calls for political candidates. But if you only knew the public side of Michael, you might not have known the fire inside that drove his life. Over

time we became friends, and that friendship led to trust between us. Michael shared with me the private stories, the journey of his life.

At the center were his parents, survivors of the Holocaust who spent their whole lives facing the memories of friends and family who perished. Michael knew that they were victims of forces they did not have the power to control. He was determined to know more about the cruelty and hate they faced. This search took him to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, where he carefully reconstructed his family's experience. Michael believed that through these efforts, his mother, Tema, now 103, was given back the real story of her life in a war that sent her to slave labor camps. He said with this research his mother's entire memory of the horror of the Holocaust was validated. This search for the truth was personal to Michael as the Jewish son of a survivor and as a gay man who knew the Nazis targeted and murdered homosexuals as well.

Personally facing the massive loss of life in the Holocaust, I think Michael felt a special pain with the AIDS crisis. I remember when he told me that fellow members of a board he served on were still not taking care to protect themselves. He was truly saddened as he feared for their fate.

But if life had been cruel to his family and the world outside could be perilous, Michael had one constant, one protector. He talked to me so many times about Roger, truly the center of his life, his partner, his love, and ultimately his husband. For me, it was a personal insight into a loving relationship at a level I had never before witnessed so closely. I could not imagine Roger without Michael, as now we must.

When it came to the world of politics, Michael willingly, frequently shared his opinion of every candidate and every issue. No one escaped his penetrating, outspoken scrutiny.

But Michael was always ready to help his friends, often in memorable ways. In 2000, with Joe Lieberman as the first Jewish candidate for Vice President, Michael and Roger made a point of heading to Los Angeles for the convention. When they heard I had an event planned there, they insisted on giving me a ride from the hotel. When they arrived in their rented convertible, Michael and Roger were properly dressed in muscle t-shirts and ready to drive through Beverly Hills. As we cruised through Wilshire Blvd and Rodeo Drive, Michael insisted on prepping me for the upcoming Gore-Lieberman campaign—he taught me valuable Yiddish words and phrases. Michael was always there with advice for his friends.

In 1996, we celebrated my first Senate election night together. I remember his trademark smile and the tears in his eyes. After I was elected to the Senate, Michael wasted no time bringing an issue to my attention. It was not an

ask for a job or a contract or anything that would benefit him personally; he asked if I could find time to visit the Howard Brown Health Center on Halsted. Of course I agreed—how could you say no to Michael? The visit led to a conversation where Michael looked me in the eye and said the Howard Brown Center was critical in fighting the AIDS crisis. He told me of friends who were afraid of other health venues and afraid to face the realities of their lives. Howard Brown was their best chance and for some, their only chance. He wanted me to see firsthand the impact of the AIDS crisis in our country.

Michael Bauer used his knowledge and connections to help others, to protect others, to fight a deadly crisis that was burying his friends. In his heart, Michael was a caring, loving person who used his talents and his access to help those on the outside of the halls of power. Loretta and I join Roger, Tema, Michael's extended family and so many friends in mourning the loss of Michael.

Farewell, Michael. You will be missed.

REMEMBERING MARGARET BLACKSHERE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Margaret Blackshere was a trailblazer as the first woman to serve as president of the nearly 1-million strong Illinois AFL-CIO. In July, she passed away at the age of 79, and I rise today to honor her memory. I share the privilege with countless others to call her a friend.

Margaret and her sister were raised by their single mother, Frances, and Aunt Margie in North Venice, IL. Her mother made sure her daughters knew that they could do anything. There were no boy chores or girl chores; there were just chores. Laundry and rewiring a lamp were normal activities.

She started off studying to be a nun, but she changed course and ended up studying elementary education at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Her religious convictions remained an essential part of her life, but education was her calling.

After college, Margaret began teaching in a school in Madison, IL. She and her fellow teachers were making only \$3,000 a year and weren't treated with respect, but they noticed that the steelworkers and mineworkers in the area were respected and doing well because they belonged to a union and worked together to secure better working conditions. Margaret and her colleagues decided they needed to form a union and demand adequate pay from the superintendent. The superintendent refused so Margaret took action and organized a 5-week strike. One small issue—because she and the other teachers were public employees, their strike was illegal. Margaret and her colleagues were jailed, but the jail only had two cells. This meant that every day, Margaret arrived at the jail with her children, ages 3 and 5, and every

night, she went home because there wasn't enough space. Her fellow teachers saw her dedication and elected her president of the teachers' union in Madison.

Margaret went back to Southern Illinois University to earn a master's degree in urban education. She became focused on issues about children living in poverty.

Her work with the union and its attempts to earn greater pay for teachers opened the door to politics. She began working on local election campaigns. It wasn't just about money anymore; it was about having a voice. With her hard work, Margaret was elected vice president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, IFT, and chair of its legislative committee.

Eventually, Margaret reluctantly gave up teaching, which she loved so much, and became a lobbyist for the IFT. She worked in Springfield to improve the salaries and working conditions of teachers. Margaret also began building networks and alliances. In 1993, the Illinois AFL-CIO needed a secretary-treasurer. Margaret was easily elected because she was respected by so many people from her time campaigning and working for the IFT.

In 2000, Margaret became president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. When Margaret came into office, she inherited a staff of 25. None of them was a person of color. The executive board had no women on it. Illinois AFL-CIO also didn't have health insurance that covered well-baby care or mammograms. Margaret brought these benefits into place. She also transformed the executive board by making it more diverse. Before long, seven African Americans, two Latinos, and eight women had positions on the board.

Under Margaret's leadership, the Illinois AFL-CIO helped lead the fight to raise the State's minimum wage—not once but twice. She led efforts to guarantee women equal pay for equal work, to expand healthcare, and to improve Illinois' workers' compensation system.

Margaret excelled at bringing people of different backgrounds together to achieve goals. She used to say, "If you've got a good cause, people will join it." She helped create Transportation for Illinois with the Illinois Automobile Asphalt and Pavement Association, the Chicago Transit Authority, and other businesses, organized labor, industry, governmental, and nonprofit organizations to support strong transportation investments for Illinois. The groups may have fought each other on a host of issues, but she gave them a unified voice for infrastructure.

Margaret devoted much of her life as well to charitable organizations and served on many boards, including the Illinois branches of United Way and the American Red Cross, Alliance for Retired Americans, Voices for Illinois Children, Unemployment Insurance Advisory Board, and the Federal Reserve

Board of Chicago. She served as an inspiration to the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership alongside my wife, Loretta, encouraging and training women to become effective leaders in Illinois.

Over the years, Margaret received more awards and accolades than can be recounted here. She was delighted to be the guest of honor for Chicago's St. Patrick Day Parade in 2003. Margaret loved celebrating her Irish heritage.

Loretta and I will miss her great humor and her willingness to always wish others well unless they were playing her beloved St. Louis Cardinals.

Margaret is survived by her two sons, Michael and Thomas; her sister, Patricia; and four grandchildren.

FALUN GONG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, throughout my years in the Senate, I have met with people from around the world who have been persecuted by their own governments, but the stories I have heard from survivors and family members of the victims of China's efforts to silence and eliminate religious minorities continue to shock me. The Chinese Government systematically brutalizes millions of people, including Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, and Falun Gong practitioners.

Those who practice Falun Gong use meditation and are guided by a philosophy of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, but because the Chinese Communist Party fears any organized religion or association it cannot control, it views this revival of traditional Chinese religion as a threat to its survival.

Falun Gong practitioners recently marked the 20th anniversary of the beginning of China's campaign of brutality against their community. On July 20, 1999, hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners were arrested in their homes in the middle of the night. Over the following week, as many as 50,000 Falun Gong were reportedly detained. In the years since that initial crackdown, the Chinese Government has relentlessly continued its repression of Falun Gong.

Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested, interred at reeducation camps, beaten, sleep-deprived, starved, sexually assaulted, electrocuted, forced, shackled, and had their limbs slowly broken, until they have renounced their beliefs and practices. They have been ordered to participate in propaganda vilifying their own community. They have had their organs harvested against their will. They have been murdered. We will probably never know how many innocent people have been the victims of these atrocities, since the Chinese Government denies to the outside world that it is happening, while justifying it to their own citizens.

The Chinese Government should immediately cease its arbitrary detention and brutalization of Falun Gong practi-

tioners and other religious and ethnic minorities. It should release political prisoners from reeducation centers, decriminalize religious and spiritual practices, and allow international human rights groups and journalists to interview survivors. It should commit to ending the use of torture, organ harvesting of prisoners, and propaganda against minorities.

The plight of these people in China, the horrors of torture and murder by the government, can seem very far away from Washington, DC, and very far away from my State of Vermont. Yet Vermonters travel to Washington to meet with me and my staff, urging Congress to take action on behalf of Falun Gong. Vermonters are persistent people who rightly refuse to let us forget about Falun Gong and the other victims of China's repression. It is all too easy to ignore crimes against humanity on the other side of the globe, when the victims are people we will never meet, but Vermonters demand that we pay attention. The Falun Gong deserve to be remembered, and they deserve the international community's collective action.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-38 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$209 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.
Enclosures.