

I have been proud to work side by side with Wisconsin workers and retirees and with Senator BROWN to introduce the Butch Lewis Act. This legislation will put failing multiemployer pension plans, including Central States, back on solid ground, and it does so without cutting the pensions retirees have earned.

(The remarks of Ms. BALDWIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2598 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. BALDWIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today as well to talk about pensions, as so many of my colleagues have been—and not just talking about but acting to advance legislation with regard to pensions.

As we have heard today—and we will keep saying this because it bears repeating—pensions are a promise. They are a promise of a secure retirement. When a worker enters into that promise with a company, when the Federal Government is involved, we have to make sure we keep the promise to workers, just as we did a couple of years ago, after a lot of hard work, to make sure healthcare was there for coal miners who were retired.

Pensions are an issue that both Houses of Congress have a responsibility to act on.

The House passed the Butch Lewis Act 3 months ago, but like a lot of legislation that has come from the House, it is sitting in the Senate day after day, week after week and in this case 3 months—3 months—since passage in the House. It is time for the U.S. Senate to have a vote on the Butch Lewis Act.

In Pennsylvania, and I know this is true of several other States, we are talking about coal miners, teamsters, bakery and confectionary workers who, through no fault of their own, are seeing their hard-earned pensions threatened. Failure to act could result in devastating economic consequences across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across our Nation.

Just think about it this way, in terms of Pennsylvania: One estimate has it that over 60,000 pensions—60,000—including 11,831 coal miners, 21,460 teamsters as part of that larger number—could be at risk.

Despite the challenges ahead, the good news is, we have bipartisan legislation that I mentioned a moment ago, the Butch Lewis Act, which passed the House 3 months ago.

Senator BROWN of Ohio and others have worked hard to make sure this effort on pensions is in front of the agenda in the Senate.

The Butch Lewis Act will create a loan program for troubled pensions. It is a commonsense solution that brings the public sector and the private sector together to address this looming crisis for workers.

We must also pass legislation so we can address the coal miners' healthcare and coal miners' pension crises. Senator MANCHIN from West Virginia has shown great leadership in this process over many years.

We also owe thanks to the Members of the U.S. Senate Democratic caucus. Few, if any, have coal miners in their States, but because of a concerted effort in the Democratic caucus, we have made coal miners and their healthcare and retirements and their pensions a priority. Those Democratic Senators stood with Senators like me from States that have a large number of retired coal miners because it is the right thing to do. Those Democratic Senators know it is the right thing to do. Some Republican Senators do as well.

It is the right thing to do because, as I started with, pensions are a promise, and we have to make sure we keep our promise to those workers.

Thousands of Pennsylvania families are counting on us, and many more thousands of American families across the board outside of Pennsylvania are counting on us to keep our promise on pensions and to make sure we continue to fight until that promise is kept to our workers and to their families.

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. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 Barbara McConnell Barrett, of Arizona, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Rick Scott, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the nomination of Barbara McConnell Barrett, of Arizona, to be Secretary of the Air Force, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARNER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 314 Ex.]

YEAS—84

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

NAYS—7

Blumenthal	Markey	Wyden
Duckworth	Merkley	
Gillibrand	Smith	

NOT VOTING—9

Alexander	Coons	Klobuchar
Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, and the nays are 7.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions for the Volk, Eskridge, Novak, and Kovner nominations ripen at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16; I further ask that notwithstanding rule XXII, that at 4:15 p.m. tomorrow, all postcloture time on the Barrett, Volk, Eskridge, Novak, and Kovner nominations be considered expired; finally, I ask that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE ADKISSON

Mr. McDONNELL. Madam President, it is my pleasure today to salute a transformative leader in my home State of Kentucky, Dave Adkisson. At the end of October, Dave will retire as the president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, ending nearly 15 years of representing our Commonwealth's employers and signature industries. His talent for advocacy and consensus-building have benefited Kentucky, and I would like to thank him for his many achievements for our State.

Dave began his career at his hometown chamber of commerce in Owensboro, KY. His creativity and successful management won him a lot of fans early on, and he was elected the mayor of Owensboro at the age of 34. Championing several development projects and attracting new businesses to the city, Dave was reelected to a second term without opposition.

Leaving public service, Dave accepted an offer to lead the Birmingham, Alabama, Chamber. The career move took Dave's talents out of Kentucky, but he wouldn't be gone for long. He returned home and began his current role leading the statewide chamber. At the helm of our Commonwealth's largest business association, Dave has grown the organization and expanded its reach. Now, it represents more than 3,800 businesses in Kentucky.

As the leader of the Kentucky Chamber, Dave has made a positive and lasting impact on the public policies enacted both in Frankfort and in Washington. His organization helped lead the charge to pass a right-to-work law in Kentucky, giving workers more freedom over their paychecks and drawing new investment into the Bluegrass State. Dave was also a key ally in our drive to pass comprehensive Federal tax reform and cut burdensome regulations. Kentucky's strong economy is a result, in part, of Dave's leadership.

He has also been recognized nationally among his peers for his important work. In 2017, the Kentucky Chamber was named the top chamber in the country, and Dave has lent his expertise to several national business associations. To foster future innovators, Dave cofounded Leadership Kentucky, a highly selective program to equip prominent Kentuckians with the skills to excel. It is just one example in a long list of contributions Dave has made to improve our State's bright future.

As Dave leaves the Kentucky Chamber, I am glad to know he will continue leading various projects around the Commonwealth. I am sure our communities will continue to benefit from his talent and guiding hand. I am also reassured to know that, while Dave is spending some well-deserved time with his wife Bonnie and their family, the Kentucky Chamber will be in the capable hands of its new president, Ashli Watts. A seasoned advocacy veteran, Ashli can build upon the years of success and help the Kentucky Chamber continue to be a strong voice for our state's job creators.

So, Mr. President, I would like to thank Dave for his years of leadership in Kentucky. As an elected official and a public policy advocate he has created a legacy of accomplishment that will be enjoyed for years to come. It is a privilege to pay tribute to my friend today, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Dave Adkisson and wishing him a fulfilling retirement.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, during National Hispanic Heritage Month, we are called to honor the contributions of a critical community—that of Hispanic Americans. Now accounting for 60 million individuals in the United States, these men and women are an essential pillar of our society. Although this group has grown significantly in recent decades, individuals of Hispanic descent and culture have been with our Nation since its very founding.

Hispanic identity is a complex concept, at least with respect to how many in the United States traditionally understand race and ethnicity. The word "Hispanic" stems from "Hispanic," the Latin name for the ancient Roman colonies on the Iberian Peninsula that also serves as the origin for the modern state of España, or Spain. It was there that the Spanish or Castilian language, culture, and people developed out of the convergence of Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Celts, Basques, Visigoths and Arabs, in addition to Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

The story does not end there. Along the hallowed walls of the U.S. Capitol Rotunda are two paintings by John Vanderlyn depicting key historical scenes. In 1492, the Spanish Catholic Monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to sponsor the journey of Christopher Columbus in search of a passage to the East Indies. Columbus failed at this goal, but, as the Landing of Columbus illustrates, he did land in the island now named San Salvador in the Bahamas. This voyage prompted the Spanish exploration and colonization of the Americas, including North America, reaching as far as Mississippi in 1541, as depicted by William Henry Powell's Discovery of the Mississippi by De Soto, and even deep into the Pacific Northwest.

Even then, however, we are still missing other key elements of the story. The Spanish were not alone. They encountered vast empires, the Aztecs and the Incas, in addition to hundreds of other peoples, from the Mapuche in Argentina to the Maya in Guatemala. Colonization was a bloody process that uprooted and killed millions of indigenous people. Moreover, the Spanish brought millions of Africans to the Americas as part of the Atlantic slave trade. Men, women, and children had to struggle in cruel and terrible conditions as the property of others. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the indigenous and African communities have helped make the Hispanic community what it is today, whether it's in culture, art, music, food, language, or even the genetic makeup of the people themselves. Significant portions of the Hispanic community can trace their descent to these two groups—at least in part, if not entirely.

The exploration and colonization that would lead to the creation of the Hispanic world in the Americas would, in turn, set the stage for English to do the same later, beginning with the first permanent settlement in Jamestown, VA, in 1607. Eventually, these English colonies would sever themselves from the British Empire and form the United States of America. But Spanish colonies would continue to influence our Nation throughout our history. Multiple territories, such as Florida, Texas, California, and Puerto Rico, became integral parts of our country. Others, inspired by the principles of the Enlightenment and the examples of the American and French Revolutions, became their own independent countries. They have since been our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere and some of our most critical partners in trade, security, and championing the virtues of democracy.

Congress established National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 in recognition of the pivotal contributions and legacy of this community that traces its roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and further beyond. Millions, such as the Hispanics of New Mexico and the Tejanos of Texas, are the descendants of settlers who have been on these lands for centuries. Starting in the twentieth century, millions of individuals from across the Hispanic world have come to our Nation as immigrants. Since 2000, the Hispanic population in Maryland has more than doubled, now accounting for half a million people, or nearly 10 percent of all Marylanders. Our State is home to a diverse community of individuals with origins from across the Hispanic world, with sizeable populations of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and Peruvians.

Yet we must recognize that this community faces distinct challenges. Instability continues to hamper the abilities