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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God, judge the nations with Your righteousness and justice, and keep our lawmakers on the path of truth. May they strive to maintain a clear conscience in whatever they do for You and humanity. Lord, give them the wisdom to refuse to deviate from integrity, coveting Heaven's approval in their labors for Your Kingdom. May they also remember that they are representing Your divine purposes for our Nation and world.

Lord, thank You that Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who come to You with reverence. May Your glory endure forever.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1790, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment and the House agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REDUCTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I recently heard from an 81-year-old Iowan who is battling cancer. She told me that one test cost more than \$12,700. That is almost an entire year's income for that lady. On top of that, her medication is more than \$4,700 a month. She is on Humana and Medicare, but that is not enough for her to still afford her medical bills.

Too many Americans share this Iowan's story. That is why we must pass the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act, to finally help Americans afford the critical medications they need.

The bill I just named is a bipartisan bill sponsored by this Senator and Democratic Senator WYDEN. It got

voted out of committee 19 to 9 back in July.

We have the good fortune that the House of Representatives understands that the pricing of prescription drugs is a major problem. They passed a bill last week. I applaud them for taking up this issue. It so happens that the bill they passed probably can't get anywhere near 60 votes in the U.S. Senate, so I hope we will have an opportunity to sit down with Speaker PELOSI and other House Members to see what we can work out to do something about the high cost of prescription drugs for the citizens of this country. Every Member of this body hears from their constituents that they don't like the fantastic increase in prices of drugs that occurs on a regular basis.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG CONNOLLY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to our longtime Democratic Policy Communications Committee staff member, Doug Connolly, who will be retiring at the end of the month with an impressive 33 years of working for the committee and working for the Senate. I am pleased to have Doug with me today on the floor.

For a moment, think back to 1986. A couple of top songs that year were "Stuck With You" by Huey Lewis and the News and "Manic Monday" by the Bangles. The top movie that year was "Top Gun," and the average price of a movie ticket was \$3.71. I don't know if we remember those, but it has been a while.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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In Washington, the Senate voted to allow its proceedings to be televised on C-SPAN that year. A young graduate of the University of Michigan and veteran of Paul Simon's first Senate campaign began working for what was then called the Democratic Policy Committee.

A lot of things have changed since then. We are all a little bit older, and C-SPAN has broadcast more than a few hours of Senate floor proceedings. However, one thing hasn't changed: Doug is still as dedicated to public service as he was on his first day of work 33 years ago. I have been personally so impressed by Doug's work ethic, though not surprised. After all, he grew up in a hard-working auto family in Rochester, MI.

Over the years, Doug's work ethic has benefited a number of folks you have heard of, including Senator Robert Byrd, Senator Tom Daschle, Senator Byron Dorgan, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER, and Senator Harry Reid, whose website he designed.

Doug's computer skills are legendary and haven't just benefited the Democratic caucus. They have benefited the Nation as a whole. Doug actually wrote the computer program that the Senate Library and the Senate Historian rely on to keep track of votes. That is important information for the American public to know.

Thanks to Doug, we know that since Doug has worked in the Senate, there have been 11,114 votes cast. Only Senator LEAHY, Senator GRASSLEY, and Senator MCCONNELL have been around long enough to have cast all of them.

When Doug isn't crunching numbers, he is a voracious reader and a devoted father and husband. He is extremely proud of his children. His son Nick is getting his doctoral degree in mathematics at the University of Iowa. His daughter Caitlin earned her degree in anthropology from St. Mary's College in Maryland and is an intern with the Smithsonian Institution.

Doug's wife Brenda has him slightly beat on career longevity. She has worked in the House of Representatives for 34 years, and every day Doug walks over to the House side so that they can have lunch together. Pretty soon, however, their lunch dates might be on a beach. Doug is retiring this month, and he hopes to be spending a lot of time scuba diving in the Caribbean.

Doug, thank you so much for your hard work, your creativity, and your 33 years of public service. The committee has been incredibly lucky to have you, and all of us will miss working with you. I think it is fitting that after more than three decades of spending so much time reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, now your name will be in it. We all wish you and your family much happiness in your next chapter.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 382.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Walden McFarland, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

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 senior assistant 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 Matthew Walden McFarland, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Tim Scott, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 465.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

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 senior assistant 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 Anuraag Singhal, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 466.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karen Spencer Marston, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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 senior assistant 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 Karen Spencer Marston, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat