

Works was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

#### NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER HANSON

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to support the confirmation of Christopher Hanson to be a Commissioner at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Chris has diligently served the Senate and the people of California over the last 6 years as a key member of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee staff. During that time, he has advised me and the full Senate Appropriations Committee on issues surrounding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, including its budget, its oversight of nuclear reactor decommissioning at San Onofre in California, and issues related to proposed new reactor technologies.

He has also overseen nuclear energy research and development, radioactive waste cleanup, nuclear weapons, non-proliferation, and naval reactor programs.

Prior to coming to the Senate, Chris worked at the Department of Energy, where he advised the Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy and worked on appropriations issues for then-Secretary Steven Chu.

In all, Chris has 25 years of experience working on the very issues at the heart of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's mandate.

As the Senate knows, the members and staff of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee work seamlessly together in order to produce a bipartisan bill each year. Chris's expertise, his professionalism, and his quiet, good nature are instrumental in that effort. He is respected and appreciated by Members on both sides of the aisle.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Senator ALEXANDER, our subcommittee chairman, sent a letter to the Environmental and Public Works Committee in support of Chris' nomination, which I very much appreciate. Senator ALEXANDER and I have spoken about how much the subcommittee will miss Chris, but we are happy for him, and we look forward to working with Chris in his new role.

I have every confidence that Chris will give his usual thoughtfulness and insight to the issues that come before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And I know the other Commissioners will find him to be a joy to work with.

I thank Chris for his dedicated service to the people of California, to the Senate Appropriations Committee, and to the U.S. Senate, and I look forward to his success in his new role and continuing to serve the country with all the expertise and professionalism he has shown us these past 6 years.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the nomination of David Wright to be a member of the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission for 5 more years. Amidst a global pandemic that has caused the greatest public health crisis in a century and the worst economic catastrophe since the Great Depression, we are spending our time in the United States voting on a nominee for the NRC who will likely take actions that put the lives and livelihoods of Nevadans at even further risk.

David Wright has a long history of working to advance the failed and fiscally irresponsible proposal to dump our Nation's nuclear waste at the Yucca Mountain site. In his previous work as chairman of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, he supported continuing licensing of Yucca Mountain. Additionally, in 2005 he founded the Yucca Mountain Task Force and criticized local opposition to the project, calling it "myopic resistance." That is how he characterizes the people of Nevada fighting back against the injustice of having no say in whether or not we are to become the Nation's nuclear dumping ground.

For these reasons, in August 2018, the State of Nevada filed a formal petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit challenging now-Commissioner Wright's refusal to disqualify himself from participating in NRC Yucca Mountain licensing decisions. According to the State of Nevada at the time, Wright's participation in any licensing decisions would violate Nevada's constitutional right to unbiased decision makers at the NRC.

Numerous studies have since shown that Yucca Mountain, only 90 miles from Las Vegas, is a physically unsuitable site that would threaten the health and safety of Nevadans and would take half a century to complete. Notably, Yucca Mountain is located above an aquifer in an area of moderate to high seismic activity and is subject to oxidizing and corrosive elements. In fact, just this week, only days before we have been asked to vote on this pro-Yucca nominee, two earthquakes—one of which was of 6.5 magnitude—struck Nevada less than 150 miles from Yucca Mountain and less than a dozen miles from one of the proposed transportation routes for shipping nuclear waste to Yucca. In addition to threatening the health and safety of Nevadans, transporting all of our Nation's nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain would threaten our national security, as the site is directly adjacent to the Nevada Test and Training Range, NTTR, the largest air and ground military training space in the contiguous United States. Establishing a nuclear waste repository in such close proximity to NTTR could therefore directly jeopardize the readiness of our Air Force.

Most importantly, Nevadans have never consented to storing other States' waste at Yucca Mountain. With thousands of Nevadans dying of COVID-19 and jobless claims in the State at unprecedented levels, today,

among the numerous actions this Senate could have chosen to take, we are voting on the confirmation of an individual who wants to add insult to injury by proceeding with an ill-advised plan for nuclear waste storage that ignores the voices of Nevadans.

I will not stand for this. I, therefore, cast my vote against the nomination of David Wright to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hanson and Wright nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 691 and 692, with the exception of Prestidge and Rivera; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

##### IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(d):

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Thomas G. Allan  
Rear Adm. (lh) Laura M. Dickey  
Rear Adm. (lh) Douglas M. Fears  
Rear Adm. (lh) John W. Mauger  
Rear Adm. (lh) Nathan A. Moore  
Rear Adm. (lh) Brian K. Penoyer  
Rear Adm. (lh) Matthew W. Sibley

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(e):

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Christopher A. Bartz  
Capt. Scott W. Clendenin  
Capt. Mark J. Fedor  
Capt. Shannon N. Gilreath  
Capt. Jonathan P. Hickey

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session for the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 658 through 688 and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the

table with no intervening action or debate, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10 U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Scott L. Pleus

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Daniel D. Boyack

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*to be major general*

Brig. Gen. Dagvin R. M. Anderson  
Brig. Gen. Deanna M. Burt  
Brig. Gen. Case A. Cunningham  
Brig. Gen. Michele C. Edmondson  
Brig. Gen. Kenneth P. Ekman  
Brig. Gen. Derek C. France  
Brig. Gen. Philip A. Garrant  
Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Gebara  
Brig. Gen. Samuel C. Hinote  
Brig. Gen. William G. Holt, II  
Brig. Gen. Joel D. Jackson  
Brig. Gen. Michael G. Koscheski  
Brig. Gen. John D. Lamontagne  
Brig. Gen. Leah G. Lauderback  
Brig. Gen. Rodney D. Lewis  
Brig. Gen. John J. Nichols  
Brig. Gen. James D. Peccia, III  
Brig. Gen. Lansing R. Pilch  
Brig. Gen. James R. Sears, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. Donna D. Shipton  
Brig. Gen. Daniel L. Simpson  
Brig. Gen. Mark H. Slocum  
Brig. Gen. Phillip A. Stewart  
Brig. Gen. Edward W. Thomas, Jr.

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Dennis S. McKean

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. John S. Kolasheski

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Roger L. Cloutier

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Place

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Raymond S. Dingle

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Shoshana S. Chatfield

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Cynthia A. Kuehner

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Yancy B. Lindsey

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8035:

*To be admiral*

Vice Adm. William K. Lescher

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Dennis A. Crall

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Mark R. Wise

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Steven R. Rudder

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Karsten S. Heckl

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Adam L. Chalkley  
Col. Kyle B. Ellison  
Col. Phillip N. Fietze  
Col. Peter D. Huntley  
Col. Julie L. Nethercot  
Col. Forrest C. Poole, III  
Col. Ryan S. Rideout  
Col. George B. Rowell, IV  
Col. Farrell J. Sullivan

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Jeannine M. Ryder

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Norman S. West

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Brig. Gen. Samuel C. Hinote

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Shaun Q. Morris

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Kirk W. Smith

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. David G. Bassett

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Todd, III

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Jemal J. Beale

## IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. Stuart B. Munsch

## NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

## IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1780 AIR FORCE nomination of Kurt W. Helfrich, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1781 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JOSEPH B. LORKOWSKI, and ending BROCK L. YELTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1782 AIR FORCE nomination of Jonathan L. Arnholt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1783 AIR FORCE nomination of Andrew N. Pike, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1784 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning CHELSEY L. BUCHANAN, and ending ZACHARY R. STROMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1787 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning RENI B. ANGELOVA, and ending GRANT W. WISNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1789 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning RICARDO ANTONIO ALDAHONDO, and ending NOAH C. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1791 AIR FORCE nominations (175) beginning YVONNE E. ABEDI, and ending JENNIFER L. ZANZIG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1828 AIR FORCE nomination of James B. Hall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1829 AIR FORCE nomination of Anthony R. George, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1830 AIR FORCE nomination of Matthew D. Brill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1831 AIR FORCE nominations (2215) beginning LAURA A. ABBOTT, and ending ANDREW P. ZWIRLEIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1833 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning RYANs. COMBEST, and ending RACHELS. VAN SCIVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1834 AIR FORCE nomination of Megan A. Sherwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1835 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning JONAH R. BROWN, and ending JAKE D. WHITLOCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1836 AIR FORCE nomination of Melanie C. Martin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

## IN THE ARMY

PN1792 ARMY nominations (3) beginning SAMUEL C. HORTON, and ending TIMOTHY

C. MONTGOMERY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1793 ARMY nominations (5) beginning GARY A. ANDERSON, JR., and ending RODNEY J. STAGGERS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1794 ARMY nomination of Lauren A. Scherer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1799 ARMY nomination of Shula M. Clark, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1800 ARMY nomination of Jason M. Windham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1801 ARMY nomination of Tina N. Syfert, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1802 ARMY nomination of Steven G. Ward, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1803 ARMY nominations (24) beginning ALEKSANDR BARON, and ending RODGER I. VOLTIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1841 ARMY nomination of Patricia H. Passman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1842 ARMY nomination of Mark A. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1843 ARMY nomination of Cory J. Young, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1844 ARMY nomination of Edward K. Graybill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1845 ARMY nomination of Javier E. Sostrecintron, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1846 ARMY nomination of Jason C. Derosa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1847 ARMY nomination of Mark C. Moretti, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1848 ARMY nomination of Rockwell Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1849 ARMY nomination of Yong Yi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1850 ARMY nomination of Julian P. Gilbert, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1852 ARMY nomination of Juliet O. Thomas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1854 ARMY nominations (17) beginning PHILIP R. DEMONTIGNY, and ending LAURA A. WOODSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1856 ARMY nomination of Kodjo S. Knoxlimbacker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1814 MARINE CORPS nomination of Anthony C. Triviso, which was received by the

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1815 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher R. Yanity, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1899 MARINE CORPS nomination of Benjamin C. Kessler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

## IN THE NAVY

PN1806 NAVY nomination of Matthew J. McGirr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1807 NAVY nomination of Thomas M. Vanscoten, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1808 NAVY nomination of James S. Carmichael, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1809 NAVY nomination of La Hesh A. Graham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1810 NAVY nomination of Jacquelyn M. L. Ketring, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1811 NAVY nomination of Leslie D. Sobol, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1812 NAVY nomination of Kristen K. Parsons, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1813 NAVY nomination of Satin L. Ibrahim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1857 NAVY nomination of Santhosh K. Shivashankar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1858 NAVY nomination of Alejandro B. Sanchez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1859 NAVY nomination of Charlene G. Echague, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1860 NAVY nomination of Anthony M. Pecoraro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1861 NAVY nomination of Michael R. Syamken, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1862 NAVY nomination of Javier N. Deluca-Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1863 NAVY nomination of Daniel L. Croom, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1864 NAVY nomination of Bradley R. Yingst, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1866 NAVY nomination of Scott D. Stahl, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1875 NAVY nomination of Brian J. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1898 NAVY nominations (55) beginning PETER N. ALEXAKOS, and ending MICHAEL W. WISSEHR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

## CONFIRMATION OF JOHN L. RATCLIFFE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the confirmation of Congressman JOHN RATCLIFFE to be Director of National Intelligence.

I voted against JOHN RATCLIFFE for Director of National Intelligence for three key reasons.

First, I do not believe Congressman RATCLIFFE is qualified for the position of Director of National Intelligence, DNI.

By law, a DNI requires "extensive national security expertise." Past DNIs have been career civil servants or military officers with extensive experience in intelligence and foreign affairs.

By contrast, Congressman RATCLIFFE has been a member of Congress for 4 years and the mayor of a small town in Texas. His sole intelligence community experience is a single year on the House Intelligence Committee.

I am deeply concerned that during his hearings he was unable to demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the most pressing threats and challenges that we face as a nation.

Second, I am very concerned with Congressman RATCLIFFE's position on torture.

During his nomination hearing, he refused to denounce torture. He refused to admit that certain CIA actions following 9/11 were torture. And he refused to agree that waterboarding is torture, regardless of potential changes to U.S. law.

Torture is morally reprehensible, and the head of our intelligence community must be willing to say so and prevent it from happening again.

Third, the DNI must not be politically motivated. The DNI directs 17 intelligence agencies with a budget of more than \$60 billion and is responsible for providing objective intelligence analysis to the President.

Congressman RATCLIFFE is a vocal defender of President Trump and served on his impeachment defense team. I am concerned that politics would interfere in his duties if he were confirmed.

We need a confirmed DNI with the right experience and objectivity to do the job.

Congressman RATCLIFFE was nominated for this position last year and subsequently withdrew. Nothing has changed since then to qualify him for this role.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that earlier this week the Senate passed S. Res. 586, a bipartisan resolution designating this week National Public Works Week. National Public Works Week celebrates the profound impact our public works professionals have on our safety and quality of life. Public works are the shared assets that make up the backbone of our Nation. Public service professionals build, manage and operate our nation's most essential services.

Many of us take for granted work that goes into the services we rely on every day. This week provides an opportunity to reflect on the men and women behind those services. Let us consider the way our daily life is powered by public service professionals: We wake up in the morning to turn the tap on and expect water to come out. We place our trash bins on the street and expect it is collected in timely manner. Some of us may drive over bridges built to last generations and follow traffic signals that were carefully planned to keep us safe.

The work of public service professionals has a tangible impact on our lives every single day. Consider the employee who replaced the aging pipe that brings water to your home or the scientist that ensured that water is safe to drink. Consider also the sanitation worker who keeps your street clean and healthy. We can also think of the engineer who designed the bridge and the construction worker who started the workday before dawn to ensure the construction minimally impacted your routine. National Public Works Week gives us a formal opportunity to humanize these services and say thank you to the people working behind the scenes to keep our communities running.

There is no more important time than now to recognize these individuals. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our communities in ways previously unimaginable. However, we can count on public works employees to rise to the occasion. Public works employees are often on the frontlines, risking their own health to ensure that services are delivered. While much of public life has come to a standstill, the rhythm of public services continues. Water mains break and require repair and garbage must still be collected.

The pandemic has thrust millions of Americans into financial uncertainty, unsure how they will pay for basic services. Many public works agencies, like the Baltimore Department of Public Works are continuing to offer discounted water rates as the pandemic continues.

Public works also offer hope for our Nation's economic recovery. From the Great Depression came a formative era in the history of public works in America. President Franklin D. Roosevelt understood the power of transformative projects to jumpstart America's economy and provide a higher

quality life than previously known. The New Deal made an indelible impact on the structure of our government and trajectory of America's financial recovery. The projects themselves now stand as a physical representation of our young Nation's capacity to overcome adversity with ingenuity and grit.

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our Nation is profound. However, our Nation is ripe for investment in public works projects that will put people back to work and stimulate our economy, as was done with the New Deal. As the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, I understand the urgent need to address our Nation's aging infrastructure. That is why I am proud that the Committee reported favorably, on a bipartisan basis, a surface transportation reauthorization bill last year, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act, S. 2303, which authorizes billions of dollars to State and local governments to invest in roads, bridges, and highways, and why I hope my colleagues in the Senate will come together and follow through with important infrastructure legislation. There is no better time than now to invest in our Nation's infrastructure and employ a new class of public works professionals. Public works are central to the American story of resiliency and fortitude, even in the face of despair. This week, and always, we should look to public works professionals with gratitude for their contributions to our lives.

## MEMORIAL DAY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, due to the coronavirus pandemic, Memorial Day commemorations will be different this year. The coronavirus may force us to continue Memorial Day traditions virtually or privately with our families. Nevertheless, it is important for us to take time this weekend to honor those who bravely gave their lives for all of us.

Throughout our Nation's history, courageous and patriotic men and women have gone into battle and lost their lives to protect the freedoms that make being a U.S. citizen such a blessing. I am proud that Mississippians throughout our history have readily committed to serving our Nation. Likewise, we are equally committed to honoring the fallen and their families.

It was Mississippians who helped initiate the solemn act of commemorating those lost in battle. Columbus, Mississippi, proudly claims rights to originating Decoration Day, when women began decorating the graves of the all casualties not long after the Civil War.

This year, despite all precautions we must take, there are ways we can remember and honor the fallen. For my part, I honor the brave Mississippians who have dedicated their lives to protecting our citizens, and I pray for the