

It is a wounded and declining nation. It has an uncompetitive economy. Senator McCain used to joke that Russia is a gas station pretending to be a country. Its declining population, of course, contributes to its decline. Nations in decline may lash out, and that is what we have seen time and again.

This is a time not to give a gift to Russia but to show solidarity with our dear friends, like the people of Germany.

One final reason: Germans welcome American troops in their country, and our presence there is of enormous aid to our own military. In Landstuhl, we have a hospital that cares for some 250,000 military personnel and their families across Europe. We also care for those who come in injured from Afghanistan or Iraq. It is a staging area for training exercises that are done with NATO. It is a central hub for our troops in the EU and the Middle East and Africa. In Stuttgart, the European Command, the African Command, and the Special Ops Command are there. Ramstein Air Base is the largest in Europe for our Nation. It also hosts extensive infrastructure of schools, housing, hospitals, and airport maintenance. Moving from those facilities—it would be expensive and wasteful to abandon them.

Finally, we are so welcomed by the German people that the leaders of their various states—their state premiers wrote a letter to the Senate, and it said this: “Do not sever the bond of friendship” between the United States and Germany. I also got a personal letter from leaders in Germany saying: Do not do this. This sends exactly the wrong message at the wrong time.

To slap an ally, a great friend, and a great country like Germany and at the same time give a gift to a malevolent adversary like Russia is ill-conceived and ill-considered. I implore the Senate to consider an amendment to slow this process down and to study it.

There is a real question as to whether there will be a chance for a vote of such a nature. In my view, the Senate needs to speak on something of such magnitude. This is a matter of extraordinary significance to American foreign policy. How could we possibly allow the administration to make a decision like this without the input of the Senate?

We must vote on this. I will be satisfied if we come together as a body and vote no. People say: No, let the President take out the 10,000 troops. But I won't be satisfied if we don't get a chance to even vote on this.

We have a national defense authorization amendment coming forward. This is the time for this amendment to be seen on the Senate floor or in the managers' package. Barring that, I don't see how I can support the managers' package. I don't see how I can support, as a Senator, proceeding without taking up this vital provision of our support for our friend Germany, of our support for our interests in NATO,

the interests of our military, as well as our desire not to give Russia a gift, particularly at a time when America has been silent as Russia has been supporting the Taliban and potentially even paying hostages to kill Americans.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 4231 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 605, 721 through 743, 745 through 749, 751, 752, 753, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, all en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Engineers and 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., sections 601 and 7036:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Kathleen M. Flarity

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Terry W. Eddinger

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Patrick S. Hayden

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Eric L. Peterson

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Donald Y. Sze

The following named officers for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Stephen D. Donald

Capt. Gregory K. Emery

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Grafton D. Chase

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Eugene A. Burcher

Rear Adm. (lh) Joey B. Dodgen

Rear Adm. (lh) William G. Mager

The following named officers for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. William L. Angermann

Capt. Marc S. Lederer

Capt. Donald M. Plummer

Capt. Jeffrey S. Spivey

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as Director, Air National Guard, and for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael A. Loh

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of Army Reserve and for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7038:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jody J. Daniels

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10502:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson

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. Willard M. Burleson, III

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

Rear Adm. Kenneth R. Whitesell

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of Navy Reserve and appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8083:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. John B. Mustin

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. David A. Ottignon

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10505:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Marc H. Sasseville

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. Carl E. Schaefer

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the 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 S. Pierce

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Alex B. Fink

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 brigadier general

Col. Edward H. Bailey

Col. Mary V. Krueger

Col. Anthony L. McQueen

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as Director, Army National Guard, and for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jon A. Jensen

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jed J. Schaertl

IN THE AIR FORCE

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. Mark D. Kelly

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. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost

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. Brian S. Robinson

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. Charles L. Moore, 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. Andrew A. Croft

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. Michael L. Howard

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. James J. Malloy

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. Michelle C. Skubic

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PNI 785 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning CORY L. BAKER, and ending STEPHENIE D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PNI 1923 AIR FORCE nomination of Katherina B. Donovan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PNI 1975 AIR FORCE nomination of William R. Martin, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 8, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

PNI 1525 ARMY nominations (69) beginning SYED I. AHMED, and ending D014798, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PNI 1526 ARMY nominations (20) beginning BRADLEY AEBI, and ending KEVYN

WETZEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PNI 795 ARMY nominations (27) beginning JOHN L. AMENT, and ending WENDY G. WOODALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PNI 796 ARMY nominations (39) beginning FELY O. ANDRADA, and ending D011074, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PNI 797 ARMY nominations (8) beginning CHRISTOPHER A. FLAUGH, and ending ZACK T. SOLOMON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PNI 798 ARMY nominations (6) beginning MICHAEL BEREZCZ, and ending JAMES W. PRATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PNI1805 ARMY nominations (18) beginning THOMAS E. ALLEN, and ending MICHAEL T. ZELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PNI1924 ARMY nominations (212) beginning CHAD M. ABTS, and ending ROGER B. ZEIGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PNI1925 ARMY nominations (155) beginning DANIEL P. ALLEN, and ending GARY C. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PNI1926 ARMY nominations (48) beginning BRIAN E. BART, and ending MITCHELL J. WISNIEWSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PNI1952 ARMY nomination of Shahin Nassirkhani, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

PNI1865 NAVY nominations (11) beginning ROBERT L. BETTS, and ending JAMES G. THURSTON, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1867 NAVY nominations (83) beginning MATTHEW L. ABBOT, and ending DAVID P. ZIEGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1868 NAVY nominations (16) beginning PAUL ANNEXSTAD, and ending PETER M. ZUBOF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1869 NAVY nominations (4) beginning BENJAMINE BARAN, and ending JOSEPH F. RHEKER, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1870 NAVY nominations (5) beginning AARON A. ASIMAKOPOULOS, and ending KIMBERLY A. PIZANTI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1871 NAVY nominations (5) beginning DEREK L. BUZASI, and ending TRACY A. SICKS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1872 NAVY nominations (10) beginning FRANCIS P. BROWN, and ending MCKINNYA J. WALLACE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PNI1873 NAVY nominations (3) beginning STUART R. BLAIR, and ending JEFFERY T. KING, which nominations were received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1874 NAVY nominations (15) beginning JOHN P. BAUER, and ending KURT A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1876 NAVY nominations (3) beginning STEVEN G. BEALL, and ending ALMOND SMITH, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1877 NAVY nominations (17) beginning DAVIDS. BARNES, and ending JOEL A. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1878 NAVY nominations (5) beginning KATHRYN M. HERMSDORFER, and ending DWIGHT E. SMITH, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1879 NAVY nominations (12) beginning CHRISTA D. ALMONTE, and ending SCOTT D. WORTHINGTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1880 NAVY nominations (4) beginning JERREAL E. DORSEY, and ending KYLE A. RAINES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1881 NAVY nominations (5) beginning JEFFREY A. BROWN, and ending JOSEPH B. RUFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1882 NAVY nominations (8) beginning BRIANS. COOPER, and ending JOHN F. RYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1883 NAVY nomination of Dell M. Griffith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1884 NAVY nominations (2) beginning LIONEL C. VIGUE, and ending CHARLES YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1885 NAVY nominations (12) beginning DARREN C. BESETT, and ending GARY D. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1886 NAVY nominations (3) beginning SHANE J. EISENBRAUN, and ending MICHAEL W. MURPHREE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1887 NAVY nomination of Robert A. Scinicariello, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1888 NAVY nomination of Dwayne Porter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1889 NAVY nominations (4) beginning JOHN P. FERRARI, and ending KEVIN L. WEST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1890 NAVY nominations (4) beginning MARKA. DUNAWAY, and ending AMIR M. TAVAKOLIRIZI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1891 NAVY nomination of Motisola T. Bowman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1892 NAVY nominations (2) beginning HYUN S. CHUN, and ending SCOTT C. MCKINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1893 NAVY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL T. CURRY, and ending RODNEY H. MOSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1894 NAVY nominations (4) beginning CORY M. GROOM, and ending MICHAEL L. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1895 NAVY nominations (4) beginning CASSIUS A. FARRELL, and ending KENNETH J. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1896 NAVY nominations (17) beginning ALLAN M. BAKER, and ending RICHARD M. YEATMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1897 NAVY nominations (8) beginning IAN A. BROWN, and ending KENYA D. WILLIAMSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1954 NAVY nomination of Suzette Inzerillo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1955 NAVY nomination of Thomas G. Chekouras, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1956 NAVY nominations (36) beginning RYAN P. ANDERSON, and ending GLENN A. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1957 NAVY nominations (11) beginning MICHAEL D. AMEDICK, and ending DENNIS M. WHEELER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1958 NAVY nominations (16) beginning JEREMY P. ADAMS, and ending ALLENE WILLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1959 NAVY nominations (69) beginning MARCO A. AYALA, and ending DAVID M. YOU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1960 NAVY nominations (16) beginning WILLIAM M. ANDERSON, and ending DAVID S. WELDON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1961 NAVY nominations (14) beginning JERRY J. BAILEY, and ending ERIN R. WILFONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1962 NAVY nominations (11) beginning PHILLIP A. CHOCKLEY, and ending DANIEL WERNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1963 NAVY nominations (14) beginning KENNETH R. BASFORD, and ending SUSAN M. TILLMON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m. tomorrow, all debate time with respect to the Schatz amendment No. 2252 and the Inhofe amendment No. 2411

expire and the Senate vote in relation to those amendments in that order. I further ask that at 4 p.m. tomorrow, all debate time with respect to the Shaheen amendment No. 1729 and Cornyn amendment No. 2244 expire and the Senate vote in relation to those amendments in that order, with all other provisions under the order of July 2 remaining in effect with respect to these amendments.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "ST. LOUIS" (LCS-19)

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I stand to recognize a historic milestone for the U.S. Navy and for the remarkable city of St. Louis, MO. I am proud that the brandnew USS *St. Louis* (LCS-19) will be commissioned August 8, 2020, and begin service as the Navy's newest littoral combat ship.

The USS *St. Louis* will be the seventh U.S. Navy ship named for the city of St. Louis, which is known as the Gateway to the West and serves as an enduring symbol of our country's westward expansion. From the early days of American expansion through the Cold War, ships carrying the name *St. Louis* have supported U.S. naval operations in many major conflicts. Historic ships named for the city of St. Louis include an ironclad gunboat in the Civil War, a troop transport and protected cruiser during World War I, a light cruiser during World War II, and an amphibious cargo ship during the Cold War era.

It seems only fitting that the very first USS *St. Louis*, which dates back to 1828, was a sail-powered sloop-of-war designed to protect the United States in its littoral zone. Similarly, today's USS *St. Louis*, a Freedom-Class littoral combat ship, boasts the unique capability to operate in near-shore littoral environments as well as blue-water missions. In addition to her operational flexibility, the USS *St. Louis* has reconfigurable payloads known as mission modules that can be quickly changed to adapt to shifting requirements. These mission modules, in combination with crew detachments and air assets, make littoral combat ships like the USS *St. Louis* the Swiss Army knives of the Navy. This ship's innovative technological advances will enhance our Navy's ability to project power into the littoral regions of the world in defense of U.S. interests. President Truman, a Missouri native, once said, "Carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you." The USS *St. Louis* will enable the Navy to do just that.

The USS *St. Louis* also reflects the extraordinary amount of time, expertise, and craftsmanship necessary to produce this great marvel of technology and symbol of American freedom. The defense industrial base,