

to \$6.3 million of congressionally approved funds to support transition activities and to actually buy office equipment.

Delayed ascertainment, as I mentioned, could also prevent the transition team from meeting with agency officials who will be responsible for the COVID-19 crisis. Shouldn't they get up to speed on Operation Warp Speed and on the announcement today by Pfizer that it is on the verge of announcing a successful vaccine? Don't we want an orderly, peaceful, smooth, effective, and efficient transition when it comes to the manufacturing and distribution of that vaccine? Of course, we do.

A delayed ascertainment will cause major harm to this transition, to the new Biden administration, and to the American people. It could be a danger to our national security. Why would we ever risk that?

On November 27, 2000, when there was an actual controversy in the States and in the courts over 500 or 600 votes in Florida, for example, Vice President-Elect Dick Cheney said about the transition being delayed at all: "We will pay a heavy price for the delays in planning and assembling the next administration."

It has been a bitter campaign, a tough campaign. People still have very strong personal feelings about its outcomes. Some people are euphoric, and others are angry and sad. I know that is natural in an election campaign, and I feel that way about some of the races back in my home State. Yet there comes a moment when we have to look after the best interests of this country, and the best interests of this country say we should move forward on the transition at this moment.

I believe that President-Elect Joe Biden will be sworn in on January 20 as our next President. I believe the numbers are overwhelming. The margins in even the controversial States are so large, they are not likely to be overturned by any recount. Why delay the transition? Why run the risk that we won't have a smooth, orderly, and efficient passage from one administration to the other? Why, in the middle of a pandemic that has killed over 200,000 Americans and will threaten over 100,000 more before January 20, would we ever risk it over some bureaucratic delay? It is just unacceptable.

The American people know the election is over. Now it is time for us in Washington to concede that point. It is time for the Administrator of the GSA to do her job and announce the ascertainment and move forward in an orderly, productive, and smooth transition.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 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 James Ray Knepp II, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, Mike Braun, David Perdue.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of James Ray Knepp II, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Ex.]

YEAS—62

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Barrasso | Cruz | Lankford |
| Blackburn | Enzi | Leahy |
| Blunt | Ernst | Lee |
| Boozman | Feinstein | Loeffler |
| Braun | Fischer | Manchin |
| Brown | Gardner | McConnell |
| Burr | Graham | McSally |
| Capito | Grassley | Murkowski |
| Carper | Hassan | Murphy |
| Cassidy | Hoeven | Paul |
| Collins | Hyde-Smith | Perdue |
| Coons | Inhofe | Peters |
| Cornyn | Johnson | Portman |
| Cotton | Jones | Reed |
| Cramer | Kaine | Risch |
| Crapo | Kennedy | Roberts |

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Romney | Scott (SC) | Toomey |
| Rounds | Shaheen | Warner |
| Rubio | Shelby | Whitehouse |
| Sasse | Thune | Wicker |
| Scott (FL) | Tillis | |

NAYS—23

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hirono | Schumer |
| Bennet | King | Smith |
| Blumenthal | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Booker | Markey | Udall |
| Casey | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warren |
| Durbin | Rosen | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Sanders | |

NOT VOTING—15

| | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| Alexander | Harris | Schatz |
| Cantwell | Hawley | Sinema |
| Cardin | Heinrich | Sullivan |
| Cortez Masto | Moran | Tester |
| Daines | Murray | Young |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 23.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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.

RECOGNIZING THE WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a significant anniversary for the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. When they meet next week, the association will celebrate 75 years of service to Wyoming's natural resources. Without question, the forests, streams, and soils in the state have seen immense benefit from the important work conservation district employees do every day.

Conservation districts succeed through their work and partnerships with diverse stakeholders. Landowners, farmers and ranchers, government agencies, counties, towns, and other community organizations contribute to the conservation of land and water resources on private and public lands in Wyoming. Local conservation district boards perform as a liaison between local landowners, resource users, and State and Federal governmental agencies. The association helps individuals navigate programs and provides exemplary technical assistance to cultivate productive lands and healthy ecosystems. Agriculture, industry, cities, forests, and wildlife all depend on strong and healthy watersheds.

Wyoming has 34 conservation districts in our 23 counties. Each district is run by staff and a board of five supervisors, who serve voluntarily. Conservation districts direct programs protecting local renewable natural resources at the local level. Each district

puts its focus on issues important to resource concerns in the county. These range from water quality monitoring and watershed planning to seedling tree sales and living snow fence programs, forest planning and rangeland management to wildlife habitat improvement and endangered species issues.

I rely heavily on conservation districts for their expertise in water, conservation, wildlife, forestry, and general land management. As their mission statement says, in part, the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts provides leadership for the conservation of Wyoming's soil and water resources and promotes and protects the quality of Wyoming's waters through responsible conservation ethic.

People are the key to conservation district success, from local volunteers to dedicated staff and partners who dedicate themselves to the cause. The association provides valuable insight and expertise to countless projects and issues at the local, State, and national level. One of the best examples is in the recently retired, Bobbie Frank.

Bobbie Frank served as executive director of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts for the last 29 years. Bobbie's list of achievements is long. From being intimately involved in a myriad of water quality issues both at the State and national levels to developing and implementing programs at the local level, Bobbie has received the Wyoming Stock Growers Guardian of the Grassland Award and the Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award. She has also been inducted as a member of the Wyoming Ag Hall of Fame. I look forward to working with the Wyoming Association of Conservation District's new executive director, Hunter Petsch, moving forward.

It is without hesitation that I say Wyoming's forests and plains would look much different today if the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts had not unified in 1945. Each municipal water manager, rancher, hiker, forester, hunter, and miner owes a debt of gratitude for the good work of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

I would like to recognize several leaders within the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts for their dedicated service to the State of Wyoming.

Board of Directors: Todd Heward, President; Dan Rice, Vice President; Ryan Fieldgrove and Wayne Garman, Area I Directors; Levi Clark and Stan Mitchem, Area II Directors; Keith Grant, Area III Director; Reg Phillips and Shanon Sims, Area IV Directors; and Shaun Sims and Coke Landers, Area V Directors.

Staff: Hunter Petsch, Executive Director; Kelly Brown, Program Specialist; and Cathy Rosenthal, Watershed Coordinator.

Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, of each conservation district:

Campbell County Conservation District: Lindsay Wood, Casey Elkins

Clear Creek Conservation District: Ryan Fieldgrove, Luke Todd

Cody Conservation District: Russ Dwyer, Bobbie Holder

Converse County Conservation District: Stan Mitchem, Shelly Falkenburg

Crook County Natural Resources District: Wayne Garman, Ted Parsons

Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District: Reg Phillips, Todd Hirsch

Hot Springs Conservation District: Jim Andreen, Sonja Becker

Laramie County Conservation District: Thomas E. Farrell, Kevin Wells

Laramie Rivers Conservation District: Ruth Shepherd, Bob Shine

Lincoln Conservation District: Erick Esterholdt, Kenny Petersen

Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District: Don McDowell, Joe Speckner

Little Snake River Conservation District: Jack Cobb, Meghan Lally

Lower Wind River Conservation District: Nick Biltoft, Richard Denke

Medicine Bow Conservation District: Shanon Sims, Ralph Brokaw

Meeteetse Conservation District: Tim Morrison, Joe Thomas

Natrona County Conservation District: Andrew Anderson, Dennis Scott

Niobrara Conservation District: Matt Dockery, Dale Jordan

North Platte Valley Conservation District: Art Davis, Mike Carney

Platte County Resource Conservation District: Kerry Powers, Levi Clark

Popo Agie Conservation District: Tim Wilson, Jeri Trebelecock

Powder River Conservation District: Bill Jones, George Renkert

Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District: Floyd Derry, Regan Smith

Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District: Arla Strasser, Dan Mika

Sheridan County Conservation District: Susan Holmes, Edith Heyward

Shoshone Conservation District: Brad Tippetts, Spencer Ellis

South Big Horn Conservation District: George Kelso, Walt Hibbert

South Goshen Conservation District: Dan Jackson, Boyd Yeik

Star Valley Conservation District: Rollin Gardner, Shane Crook

Sublette County Conservation District: Coke Landers, Darrell Walker

Sweetwater County Conservation District: Mary E. Thoman, Tom Burris

Teton Conservation District: Steve McDonald, Nate Fuller

Uinta County Conservation District: Kelly Guild, Dennis Cornelison

Washakie County Conservation District: Dave Slover, Dan Rice

Weston County Natural Resource District: Alicia Redding, David Tysdal

I rise today to honor the dedicated professionals who work to keep our ecosystems healthy. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in thanking them and wishing the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts another 75 years of success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRIELLE PAQUETTE

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am proud to recognize Brielle Paquette of Salem as October's Granite Stater of the Month. Brielle is using her creative talents as a videographer to help remove the stigma around mental illness and to help inspire her friends and neighbors to open up about their mental health struggles.

Brielle grew up in a family of photographers and filmmakers. From an early

age, she found her passion in filmmaking. As she got older, Brielle recruited her young cousins to participate in music videos that she would direct and film, all with the hope of putting a smile on people's faces.

Brielle also grew up in a family with loved ones who experienced mental health challenges. Brielle's father struggled with alcohol abuse, and her mother lives with anxiety. Brielle developed an anxiety disorder, which she did not talk about with anyone, that left her feeling isolated from her peers.

When she entered high school, Brielle decided to use her talents with a video camera to help break down the stigma around mental illness. In 2019, Brielle submitted a PSA to a competition held by New Futures, a New Hampshire organization that seeks to promote health and wellness in the State.

Brielle wanted to highlight the high rate of mental illness in young adults. To film the video, Brielle went to a crowded area in Boston with a sign that read "20-50 percent of adolescents struggle with mental illness. Hug to show support for people who are struggling." Brielle then tied a blindfold on herself and accepted hugs from strangers as her mom filmed from afar.

Brielle won the People's Choice Award for that video and since then has filmed other PSAs aimed at destigmatizing mental illness and encouraging people to open up about their struggles. She also uses her platform as Miss Londonderry to promote this important message. Additionally, as a member of her school's women empowerment club, she is working on the early stages of a new PSA on body positivity.

I am proud to recognize Brielle for her efforts to break down the barriers that too often prevent us from talking about mental illness. By using her talents to help facilitate conversations about a difficult issue and raising awareness around mental health, Brielle exemplifies what it means to be a Granite Stater. I look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next.●

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL SEAY-PETER FLOYD AND OFFICER NATALIE EUCCE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Fayetteville Police Department Corporal Seay-Peter Floyd and Officer Natalie Eucce for being awarded the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing by the U.S. Department of Justice.

This is a well-deserved honor for their dedication, sacrifice, and bravery they demonstrated on December 7, 2019, when a gunman, armed with 100 rounds of ammunition, targeted law enforcement. Tragically, Fayetteville Police Officer Stephen Carr was killed while sitting in a patrol vehicle in the police station's parking lot. Corporal Floyd courageously pursued the suspect and