

of the world. My colleague's plan reinforces the fact that our trade policies must reflect when countries freeload off of American innovation.

Finally, she wants to make sure that pharmacy discounts benefit the patients, not large pharmacies' so-called benefit managers. This is a common-sense legislative proposal that will mean lower drug prices for patients who have to take expensive medications. When discounts go directly to patients, Americans will see much lower costs when they pay at the pharmacy counter.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of what is in Senator LOEFFLER's proposal. But I am sure that in the days ahead, the Senate will have a chance to hear more about her important work on healthcare. I look forward to continuing to work with her and all of my colleagues as Republicans get these important policies enacted into law.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield back the rest of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postclosure time has expired.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Toby Crouse, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, shall be brought to a close?

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Blackburn	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hooven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sasse
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Shelby
Cotton	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Jones	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Shaheen
Booker	King	Sinema
Brown	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Leahy	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden
Hassan	Rosen	
Heinrich	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Graham	Scott (FL)
Carper	Grassley	
Feinstein	Harris	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action in relation to the Crouse nomination.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEE. 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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote No. 227 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Aileen Cannon to the United States Southern District of Florida. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose cloture.

I was unable to attend the roll call vote No. 228 on the motion to confirm the nomination of Aileen Cannon to the United States Southern District of Florida. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose confirmation.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 225, on the Motion to Invoke Cloture on the nomination of James Ray Knepp II to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 226, on the Confirmation of James Ray Knepp II to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF TOURMALINE IN MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, this year, in addition to celebrating the bicentennial of the State of Maine, we are also commemorating the bicentennial of the first major find in North America of the treasured semiprecious stone tourmaline in the mountains of western Maine. It is a fascinating historical coincidence that the State of Maine and the discovery of its official State gemstone share the same anniversary.

Maine became our Nation's 23rd State on March 15, 1820. In late autumn of that year, college students Elijah Hamlin and Ezekiel Holmes were pursuing their studies in mineralogy on an expedition to Mount Mica in Paris, ME. As they headed down the mountain at sunset, they spotted a vivid green sparkle amid the tangled roots of a fallen tree. The beautiful crystal was an exciting find, but the encroaching darkness prevented further exploration.

Their plan to continue their search the next morning was cancelled by an overnight snowfall that blanketed the ground until spring. When the two students did return months later, they were astonished by the amount and variety of the crystals among the rocky ledges. The many shades of green, red, white, and yellow translucent stones they found explain why the word "tourmaline," which comes from an ancient language of Sri Lanka, roughly translates to "many colors."

News of the discovery spread, and the region soon became the foremost hunting grounds in North America for these remarkable gems, rivaling famous sites in South America and Asia. Among the early Maine rock hounds was Elijah Hamlin's younger brother Hannibal, who four decades later would serve as President Lincoln's first Vice President.

Today, Maine tourmaline is treasured by jewelers, artists, and collectors. Our distinctive watermelon tourmaline, which combines pink, white, and green in one stone, is especially prized. Residents and visitors alike delight in searching for these gorgeous stones amid the marvelous scenery of our western mountains.

The Hamlin Necklace, containing stones of various colors from the original find, can be seen at the Harvard

University Mineralogical Museum. In 1972, a spectacular discovery in Newry, ME, yielded hundreds of pounds of red and green crystals, including the “Jolly Green Giant,” a 10-inch crystal now in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History collection. The State of Maine tourmaline necklace was designed using Newry gems and presented to the State in 1975 by the Maine Retail Jewelers Association.

On Presidents Day 2010, a major discovery included a 120-carat blue tourmaline crystal, among the most rare of hues. This was named “The President” and was cut into nine gems. The largest was presented as a gift from the State of Maine to President Barack Obama when he visited that year.

How and why such large deposits of tourmaline are found in Maine, so distant from the usual locales, remains a puzzle for geologists to solve. It is worth noting, however, that tourmaline is said to bestow on its bearer fearlessness, happiness, and self-confidence—qualities that define the people of our State.

Mr. President, Maine is renowned for the stunning beauty of its mountains, forests, and seacoast. The 200th anniversary of the discovery of tourmaline is a reminder that some of the most beautiful things are not as readily apparent but are well worth looking for.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DONNA VILLERE

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, Donna Villere will make 70 years old on December 1, 2020. Donna was born at Touro Hospital in New Orleans; Donna has lived her whole life in Jefferson Parish, except for 1 year in New Orleans when she was first married. Donna grew up in Harahan; her maiden name was Gunckel. Donna attended St. Rita’s Church and was the first person to be baptized, make their first communion and confirmation, and be married at St. Rita’s. Donna attended Chapelle High School and LSUNO College.

She is married 51 years to Roger Villere; they have 3 sons Roger, III, Mark, and Jacques; four granddaughters Madison, Masey, Victoria, and Shelby; and 2 great-grandsons Isaiah and Myles. Donna is co-owner of Villere’s Florist, which she opened when she was only 18 years old on the corner of Focis Street and Metairie Road. Donna is Secretary/Treasurer, Villere Corporation.

Donna’s hobby is volleyball; she is a great volleyball player, and she started varsity as a freshman at Chapelle HS. Donna has been a volleyball coach for over 35 years at Lakeshore playground in Metairie and has coached at Metairie playground and Harahan playgrounds. Donna likes to attend volleyball tournaments, one of her favorite is Fudpuckers in Destin, FL, and she has attended for over 20 years.

Donna supports local tournaments at both Coconut Beach and White Sands Beach volleyball locations in Jefferson Parish.

Donna loves to babysit with her two great-grandsons and her nephew Jaxon.●

REMEMBERING SCOTT IRVING PEEK, SR.

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today, I honor the life and legacy of Scott Irving Peek, Sr., who passed away on November 10, 2020 at the age of 94. Known to many as Scotty, he was raised in Jacksonville, FL, with a strong work ethic that carried him through a storied life and career. After high school, Scotty served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II. He then went to the University of Florida on a track scholarship in 1945; however, his service to our Nation took precedence, and he served in the U.S. Army from 1946 through 1948. He then returned to UF, where he played both football and track and in 1952 earned his degree in physical education, health, and recreation.

After college, Scotty heard the calling for public service and began a career on Capitol Hill, serving as an aide to Florida’s U.S. Senator George Smathers. His advice and counsel was lauded, and he quickly became an integral member of Senator Smathers’ team and family. He served his State and Nation with honor. It was in Washington, DC that he met his wife, Lillian Barretto, and perhaps his greatest accomplishment, together they raised six children: Nancy, Rosemary, Scott Jr., Catherine, William, and George.

After returning to Florida, Scotty started a public relations firm and enjoyed a successful career in many ventures, including real estate. If you knew Scotty, you knew he was passionate about his family and the University of Florida. He served in multiple capacities for the UF Foundation, and that incredible work was honored by three UF Presidents.

Through his devotion to his wife of 65 years, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends, there is no doubt that Scotty left a mark on this world. I honor his life and continued legacy.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY ELMER

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mr. Elmer, one of Rhode Island’s leading advocates for humanitarian and environmental causes. Mr. Elmer is set to retire after a long and successful career, most recently with the Conservation Law Foundation.

After graduating from Rhode Island College and Harvard Law School, Mr. Elmer devoted the first part of his career to humanitarian, peace, and security issues. He was codirector of Rhode Island’s American Friends Service Committee, where he focused on nu-

clear disarmament and human rights. He also traveled extensively in South and Southeast Asia to research the status of human rights and the effect of Western military and economic aid programs in the region.

Mr. Elmer’s work yielded important, lasting change. He authored a key referendum to freeze the production and deployment of nuclear weapons, which appeared as a ballot question in Rhode Island in 1982. He then led the successful statewide campaign for that referendum. The 1982 nuclear freeze measure was, at that time, the largest nationally coordinated voter referendum in U.S. history.

Later in his career, Mr. Elmer turned to the fight for climate action for renewable power in Rhode Island’s energy market. At the Conservation Law Foundation, Mr. Elmer appeared before Federal and State courts and the Public Utilities Commission to enforce Rhode Island’s renewable energy laws. He was the principal author of several of Rhode Island’s major renewable energy statutes. Notably, he drafted the long-term contracting statute, which gave rise to the Nation’s first offshore wind project, the Block Island Wind Farm, and helped to write the distributed generation standard contracts law, to create a comprehensive framework to spur development of small, local renewable energy projects across the State. In recent years, Mr. Elmer led successful opposition to the siting of a fossil fuel power plant in Burrillville, RI, and has been one of Rhode Island’s great environmental litigators.

Mr. Elmer is a staunch advocate for human rights, peace, and action on climate. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Conservation Law Foundation and Rhode Island echo far beyond our State. I am proud to recognize his service and thank him for such an impressive career in battle for great causes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 327. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

S. 3147. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress reports on patient safety and quality of care at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3587. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 900. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of