

Nation fulfills its promise to our Native American veterans. Native Americans serve in our military in a higher percentage than any other ethnic group, which is truly remarkable and a tremendous story.

So, as I say, for all of our veterans, we have to be there, but we certainly have to make sure, then, that we are providing help and support for our Native American veterans who have served as well.

Clearly, Native American veterans face some unique challenges related to homelessness and housing, and that is a function of being on the reservation. They have some unique challenges, and we have to work to address those challenges.

So I have worked with Senator UDALL, the vice chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, along with Senator TESTER, whom I think is ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and we introduced the Tribal HUD-VASH Act, which would provide rental housing assistance as well as housing for eligible Native American veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our legislation has passed the Senate, and we are certainly hoping that it receives action in the House very soon.

As we continue to support our servicemembers, I also am a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee, and we need to continue to work to invest in our military and ensure that our servicemembers have the tools they need to complete their missions.

In North Dakota we have many Active-Duty servicemembers at our Air Force bases, as well as others in the State. They perform incredibly important missions, and we need to make sure that we are supporting them and our servicemembers across the country and deployed around the globe and that they have what they need to do their missions.

That applies equally for our members of the National Guard and the reserves. As a former Governor—and I know the Presiding Officer was a former Governor himself—the amount that we rely on the National Guard is unbelievable. Their level of service is unbelievable. Whether it is fire or flood or hurricane or tornadoes or any kind of natural disaster here at home or whether it is deploying to the global war on terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, or anywhere else around the world, our National Guard is there. They do an incredible, incredible job, so we need to make sure we are supporting our Guard and reserves just as we support our Active-Duty forces. As a matter of fact, one of our Guard units is actually deployed for a 9-month assignment defending the Nation's Capital. They are here defending Washington, DC.

Again, talk to anybody who is a Governor or a former Governor, and they will tell you just how incredible the National Guard is. And those deployments are not easy. Whether they are

deployed overseas, whether they are deployed somewhere in the United States, whether down on the border or wherever it may be, they serve. And we can't forget that their families serve too. When they are gone, the families have to pick up the slack at home, and they do.

That is one reason that each year since coming to the Senate, I have introduced in the past the Senate resolution proclaiming a national Day of the Deployed to recognize and thank our deployed servicemembers and their family members: Active Duty, Guard, and Reserves.

With Thanksgiving approaching, we are reminded of the many freedoms and blessings that we enjoy as a nation, all of which have been secured by the men and the women who have served and do serve in our Armed Forces.

Today and every day—not just on Veterans Day but today and every day—we say thank you and God bless you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Nebraska.

THANKSGIVING

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, next Thursday is Thanksgiving, and we are here today because, even during a tough year like this one, we have so many things to be thankful for.

In that spirit, I would like to tell a short story about a Nebraskan whose contribution to the history of our country is pretty extraordinary.

In 1886, Andrew Jackson Higgins was born in the small town of Columbus, NE. He spent most of his childhood in Omaha, and he served in the Nebraska Army National Guard after the turn of the 20th century before moving to Alabama at the age of 20 to work in the lumber industry.

He worked a wide variety of jobs, hoping to learn enough to eventually start his own business. He succeeded in his dream in 1922 when he founded Higgins Lumber and Export Company, which quickly grew to become one of the largest lumber companies in North America.

Four years later, his company designed the Eureka boat, a 36-foot-long boat that was able to sail in just a few feet of water. At the time, lumber could only be loaded onto ships at port, but a craft that could operate in such shallow water could run on and off of riverbanks, enabling Higgins Lumber and Export Company to load and unload its lumber just about anywhere.

In short, Andrew Higgins built the Eureka boat simply to make his employees' lives easier, and that was an honorable goal. But throughout the next decade, as it became clear that Hitler decided to plunge the world back into war, the U.S. military began to search for a way to land soldiers directly onto beaches. They turned to the Eureka boat, which beat the Navy's design in a head-to-head test in 1939.

There was just one problem: The only way to get on or off the boat was by

jumping over the sides, and this would leave soldiers exposed to enemy fire in combat. To get around this, the Navy asked Higgins to add a ramp door to the boat's bow. He returned with the final design just a month later, and the Higgins boat was born.

Andrew Higgins' company went on to produce over 23,000 of these boats, and his design worked so well that the Allies trusted them to carry our soldiers across the English Channel on D-Day. Without the Higgins boat, we may not have turned the tide of World War II at Normandy. We may never have liberated Europe from Hitler's grasp.

In fact, President Dwight Eisenhower, who was the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe on D-Day, went as far as to say that Andrew Higgins was "the man who won the war for us."

It was an honor to attend the 75th anniversary of D-Day last year at Omaha Beach, to see firsthand the beach where the "greatest generation" jumped out of those boats that Andrew Higgins built to save the world from Nazism.

I am thankful for them, and I am thankful for the sacrifices that all of our veterans and Active-Duty servicemembers make each and every day.

We all know that Thanksgiving is going to be a little different this year. As important as it is to spend time with our extended family, many of whom we only see once a year, it is just as important to do what we can to protect those we love from this virus.

I won't pretend that it is easy to spend Thanksgiving apart from these large gatherings of loved ones, but I hope the far greater sacrifices our soldiers and veterans have made will help us to keep this hardship in perspective.

This Thanksgiving, let's give thanks for our military; let's give thanks for Andrew Higgins and the Higgins boat, which saved the lives of so many of our soldiers on D-Day; and let's give thanks for our veterans and those currently serving this country in the Armed Forces. Without the sacrifices that they have made and continue to make every day, our country wouldn't be as great as it is today. Their service makes Thanksgiving possible, this year and every year.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I am rising today, along with others, giving thanks to our military and servicemembers and our veterans. In our family, this comes naturally. I am the son of Wes Roberts, a World War II Marine veteran who fought at Okinawa and Iwo Jima, and as a Marine veteran myself, I say with certainty and pride that there is no greater duty than to stand

with those who have put country before self.

I might add that my dad was age 41; he lied about his age and said he was 39. There was a niche in the Marine Corps at that time to be an air ground officer. That quickly turned into a combat situation, both in Okinawa and Iwo Jima. I am very thankful that he was spared. I would also like to add that I thank former President Truman for making a decision that allowed him and 800,000 other Americans to come home.

It is of the utmost importance, especially today, to pause and to recognize and thank veterans everywhere for their service in defending our Nation from threats, both overseas and here at home.

Another point of privilege I would like to point out is that before the pandemic, we were set to dedicate the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial on May 8. That was the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day—an anniversary with worldwide significance.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we dedicated the memorial in September, and now, after decades of work, the memorial dedicated to our President and the Supreme Allied Commander and Kansas's favorite son, Dwight D. Eisenhower, is attracting generations of visitors to the National Mall. I drive by it on Independence Avenue when I am going home. I am always amazed that there are 25 or 30 people taking pictures of Ike, both as President and also the Supreme Allied Commander.

I am delighted that we are relearning the contributions of this great President and a man who basically saved Western democracy and gave us 8 years of peace and prosperity as President.

The memorial encourages all visitors to learn more about the critical role Ike played in not only shaping our Nation and defining the United States of America on the world stage but leading our country through 8 years of peace and prosperity. He recognized the promise of America and the reciprocal responsibility of his people to serve the Nation that serves them. As he said in his first inaugural address, "It is the firm duty of each of our free citizens . . . to place the cause of this country before the comfort, the convenience of himself." It was Eisenhower's decision to launch the D-day invasion that helped turn the tide of war in Europe and save Western democracy.

While the memorial pays tribute to his valiant leadership, it also pays tribute to the "greatest generation." Without their bravery and sacrifice during World War II, the world, no doubt, would be a very different place.

Now, we have another favorite son in Kansas. My dear friend and mentor, Senator Bob Dole, is another one of these heroes of the "greatest generation," and he made a tremendous effort in making the World War II Memorial a reality. In talking with Bob about his effort and then his key role in making the Eisenhower Memorial an actuality

and being successful, now anybody who is a World War II veteran—and those numbers are decreasing dramatically every year—however, they can get some transportation up here on Independence Avenue and pay homage to their Commander in Chief and salute him as they would have liked to have done years back.

I would point out that through my 40 years of service in both the House and Senate, I have said many times that the No. 1 priority of our Federal Government is to provide for the safety and security of our great Nation and to encourage those who protect us and to give them due. It has also been an honor to serve as a marine and to serve the great State of Kansas in Washington.

Our Nation is forever indebted to the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the service men and women who repeatedly answer the call of duty and step forward to defend the freedoms we all hold dear. Each and every one of us—more especially in this body—give the thanks of a grateful Nation to our Nation's veterans.

I would be remiss if I did not close by stating "Semper Fi."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Vaden nomination occur at 2:15 p.m. today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I am joined on the floor by the Senator from North Carolina, and I think a few additional Members will be coming to talk about Thanksgiving Day and about one of the things that we are most thankful for in this Nation, which is the service of our veterans who have stepped forward in uniform to give us the free country that we enjoy today and the freedoms that we enjoy today—veterans like my 96-year-old father, who was in World War II, who was recognized at the Ole Miss-South Carolina game just Saturday night as one of the surviving World War II veterans.

So I want to take a personal moment to recognize my dad and people like him who served so many, many decades ago. They kept us safe and defended our most important freedoms, including the freedom that Americans exercised just this month—the freedom to cast a ballot.

I am a veteran myself, and I am a proud veteran. Of course, my accomplishments do not compare with those of my World War II veteran dad's. I am

also the proud father of an Air Force major today, Maj. McDaniel Wicker. So being a veteran is a proud tradition in our family. Also, it is a proud recognition that we make as Members of Congress and to take care that the promises we have made are kept to the armed services members who have stepped forward and donned a uniform.

That means making sure, during this COVID-19 pandemic, that federally run retirement homes, like the Armed Services Retirement Home in Gulfport, MS, have the resources they need. It means acting boldly to reform the VA, which we have done, actually, on a bipartisan basis, in recent years, with legislation like the VA MISSION Act and the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act. These laws have reduced wait times, expanded access to telemedicine and private care, and allowed the Department of Veterans Affairs to fire employees who have engaged in poor performance. As I say that, I might add, when I talk to veterans who have used the services of the VA, so many times, they are complimentary and profusely generous in their praise of the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. For those who don't get the job done and perform poorly, we now have the ability, under this important legislation, to get rid of them and replace them with those who will join the majority of the VA employees in getting the job done.

I have also introduced legislation with Senator Kaine to designate September 30 as National Veterans Suicide Prevention Day. It is something on which, again, we have worked in a bipartisan manner down through the Congresses.

This month is not only Thanksgiving month and election month, but it is Military Family Appreciation Month. Showing our thankfulness to veterans also includes showing our thankfulness to the families of our military members. So I am pleased to join my colleagues and yield the floor, in just a few moments, to my colleague from North Carolina.

Just today, Members of the House and Senate are working on the final paragraphs and the final provisions that remain undecided within the National Defense Authorization Act. This year, it will be named after a retiring colleague of ours, Representative MAC THORBERRY, of Texas, who did not seek reelection this year. I can tell you that Members of the Senate and Members of this Republican conference are working hard today to make our National Defense Authorization Act a reality again for the 60th straight year and to serve those veterans and future veterans who have done so much to make our country free.

At this point, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, before the senior Senator from Mississippi leaves, I would like to thank him for

his comments and for his service to the Nation. He actually spent some quality time in my great State of North Carolina when he was in the Air Force.

Senator WICKER, thank you for your service and for your father's as well.

I rise for the same purpose—to thank our men and women in uniform, our veterans, and those actively serving.

In North Carolina, we have a proud tradition of military service. We have one of the fastest growing populations of veterans in the Nation. We will have surpassed a million over the next couple of years. We also have over 100,000 Active-Duty servicemembers who serve bravely from Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point, New River, and Seymour Johnson, which is where my colleague from Mississippi served. We also have a fantastic, well-decorated National Guard and the largest air station for the Coast Guard right up in the northeast part of our State. We have a proud tradition of military service, and I am proud to serve them as their U.S. Senator.

I also have the privilege of serving as the chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee on the Senate Armed Services Committee and on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where we work every day to try to make life better for our men and women who serve today and for our veterans who have served in the past.

I have to say, with regard to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is one of my favorite committees because—and the American people need to recognize this—we almost always come together, Republicans and Democrats, to continue to make installments on a debt we can never fully repay. Senator WICKER talked about some of the progress we have made with the VA MISSION Act, which makes sure that we provide to the veterans who need care the best possible care they can get.

I also thank for his leadership the Secretary of the VA, Robert Wilkie, who is also a native North Carolinian. Out of 17 Federal agencies, he has taken the Department of Veterans Affairs organization, which was ranked 17th as the preferred place to work, to the top 5, and its satisfaction rating among veterans today is over 90 percent. I would put what they are doing up against any of the best healthcare systems in the private sector.

We have a lot of work to do, and I want all of the veterans to know that we are going to honor their service by doing our work here in the Senate of continuing to do better by them.

I also want to talk about the fact that it is Military Family Appreciation Month. I think the real silent heroes out there are the spouses and the family members who are left behind when you are deployed or are in training. We have to continue to make progress for military families. Many people may not appreciate what it is like if you are in a career as a spouse and are being moved from station to station every

couple of years or how difficult it is to get a job. For many certified positions, it can take a year or more for you to get a job in another State, and by that time, you are already planning for another deployment. We have made a lot of progress in this area, but we have much more to do.

On a special note, I want to talk to the military families who are in military housing on our installations across the world, particularly to the folks down at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune.

We are not done with making sure that you have the best, safest, cleanest housing that you can possibly have. We have made a lot of progress in this Congress, but we have a lot of work to do.

So I make a commitment to every servicemember and every veteran: As long as I am in the U.S. Senate, we are going to work to continue to repay that debt. We are looking for your feedback, and we are looking for your input so that we can do right by you.

To all of the veterans and all of the military families, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done and for all that you continue to do.

On a final note, to those of the veterans service organizations, with whom I work closely on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, thank you for your continued service. You have served our Nation in the armed services, and you continue to serve by helping veterans and helping to be a voice up here in Congress.

To the veterans and military families, God bless you, and thank you for your service.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I thank my colleague from North Carolina for joining us to talk about our veterans and about how important they are.

North Carolina, of course, is home to many of our Active-Duty installations, which house many of our brave, young men and women from across the United States. Many Iowans will travel to the great Fort Bragg or other installations and call North Carolina home at least for a short while. So thanks to my colleague for joining us today.

Thanksgiving dinner has become the single most celebrated meal of the year, with tens of millions of Americans gathering with family and friends to give thanks for their blessings and, of course, for one another. And, folks, I know that this year, it is a lot different.

While we still have so much to be thankful for, the COVID-19 pandemic means folks will be traveling less and might not be celebrating in larger groups. As a result, many will be separated from their loved ones on this very special day.

But, folks, this is a very familiar feeling for anyone who has ever served in our Nation's Armed Forces. There is

no vacation from protecting our Nation. At any given moment, thousands of men and women, moms and dads, brothers and sisters, are stationed around the world, standing vigilant in the defense of freedom.

Those wearing the uniform aren't the only ones making a sacrifice, either. Back home, there is an empty seat at the family table. There are kids missing their mom or dad, as my daughter missed me while I was deployed. Parents are missing a child, and husbands and wives are missing a spouse.

Due to COVID, many who are stationed in the United States can't even travel home to be with their families. My own daughter will not be able to travel over Thanksgiving. Restrictions have been put in place prohibiting non-essential travel to or from many military installations, including Camp Dodge in my home State of Iowa. But every day, not just Thanksgiving, can be a sacrifice when serving in the Armed Forces. Those who enlist are well aware of this. Yet it is no deterrent.

As a combat veteran with over 23 years of service between the Army Reserves and the Iowa Army National Guard, I understand what many families are going through, and I have a deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make for the good of their neighbors.

Just last year, I visited our Iowa troops for Thanksgiving in Afghanistan. It was good to see them, and I know how much they were missing their families. They also want to make sure that the people back home remember them—remember that they are far from home, remember that they are working hard to protect our freedoms.

Our courageous servicemembers know the real cost of freedom. They have seen and felt it firsthand. Many of them live with that price the rest of their lives. Far too many who survive combat continue fighting an internal battle when they return home.

That is why I have made it a top priority to work across the aisle to combat suicide and mental health struggles among our veterans. My most recent effort would designate a Buddy Check Week to educate veterans on how to conduct peer wellness checks. It is a really simple measure that could go a long way to support the health and safety of those who have bravely served our Nation.

During this Thanksgiving season, we also must continue to show our gratitude for those who are putting their own health and lives at risk by serving on the frontlines in our fight against COVID-19.

Throughout this pandemic, there have been over 850 Iowa National Guardsmen working to deliver personal protective equipment, food, and medical supplies all across the State of Iowa. Having served in the Iowa Army National Guard for many, many years, I could not be more proud of their tireless and selfless efforts. That is why I

have introduced legislation to provide tax-free hazardous duty pay for our National Guard men and women to recognize the work they are doing during this pandemic and provide them the pay they deserve.

I know I speak on behalf of all Iowans when I say I am truly thankful for all of those who have ever served our Nation in uniform, and also to their families. This month we honor and appreciate all the sacrifices our military families make to support loved ones who are serving our Nation in uniform.

While this Thanksgiving might look a little different, let's not forget to be grateful for the freedoms and the blessings we have in this truly great country.

May God bless all Iowans, including those serving overseas and those caring for strangers during this pandemic. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, first, let me thank Senator ERNST for organizing this opportunity to talk about our veterans, to talk about those who serve and the obligations we have to them, to talk about their challenges. Last week, certainly Veterans Day was very much on our minds, but also we ought to be sure that our veterans are on our minds all the time.

We have appropriations bills we need to pass that will make a big difference in how veterans' issues are dealt with. Obviously we need to pass the appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and every veteran would want us to pass the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. But there are also provisions in other bills that help veterans get back into society more effectively when they leave the military.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill that I talked about on the floor last week increases assistance for veterans' employment programs and veterans' training programs. It supports veterans when they move from the military workforce to the civilian workforce. It works to give homeless veterans a chance to have a home, have a job, have an opportunity—break through whatever barrier is a barrier for them. Opioid dependence—we all know those numbers are back up. Those opioid death numbers are back up. Veteran suicide—not one is acceptable. Funding the veterans hotline, funding behavioral health programs, being sure that telehealth can be available to veterans who may not be able to drive all the way to a provider but would be able to quickly contact the person who helps them.

We need to understand the challenges for homeless veterans particularly and post-traumatic stress in other veterans who sometimes don't develop post-traumatic stress until decades after they serve. Often our veterans, not just

in leaving the military but in retirement from whatever they did next, don't realize until that moment how much their service has impacted the way they see things and do things and think about things and are concerned about things.

We need to be sure that veterans who have experiences and skills that they take out of the military are able to quickly connect with employers as they transition to civilian life.

Every employer—in fact, at least I have never talked to an employer who doesn't say: We really hire vets. It is a priority where we are to hire vets.

But we passed some legislation a few years ago, the HIRE Vets Act, which gave the Department of Labor the authority to recognize employers that actually do that—that hire vets, that promote vets, that retain vets. Secretary Alex Acosta was Secretary of Labor at the time, and they took a program that—everybody who advised him on this said it would take about 3 years to set this up. They set it up in about 6 months, and we began to recognize employers around the country who truly do meet the standard that all employers say they meet, and some do. Everybody wants to, but it is easier to say you do it than it is to do it.

Seven Missouri businesses just received earlier this month the 2020 HIRE Vets Medallion Program Award. They are C2C in Chesterfield; Connectria in St. Louis; Arnold Defense & Electronics in Arnold, MO; AME Construction in Cottleville; Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas City, an employer that at one time was the World War I Memorial—the only memorial; On Target Solutions in Belton; and Pod-Grown in Wentzville. They all received the recognition that they really do hire vets and they really do promote vets and they really do meet extraordinary standards that are part of that program. The program aims to highlight companies that do just that.

Third, we have worked to make it easier for military spouses to transfer their licenses and skills from one State to another. We included that in the Defense Authorization Act passed in July. That Defense Authorization Act hasn't passed the Congress yet. It has passed the Senate; it hasn't passed the House yet. I know we have every intention of getting that done this year. But when we do, we put provisions in there that really do allow much easier transfer from one State to another, whether you are a teacher or a nurse or a beautician or a barber or an engineer, architect—whatever you might be transferring and want to transfer as your spouse moves from one assignment to another, it shouldn't take most of the time you are there to finally get qualified to do what you were qualified to do before you got there.

Lowering these license barriers for spouses—I think we ought to also do all we can to lower those barriers for veterans themselves. If you have been a medical technician in the Air Force, it

shouldn't be very hard to become a medical technician wherever you decide to move to after the military. If you have been a truckdriver in the Army, it shouldn't be very hard to get a truckdriver's license pretty quickly once you decide this is where you want to go. If you have been an electrician in the Navy, you ought to be able to get your license to be an electrician pretty quickly when you go to where you go after you leave the military.

So these are the kinds of things we can do. Certainly, our deep appreciation for veterans, our deep appreciation for their families, our honoring the flag that they have done so much for—all of that is important. It is an integral part of what we are as a country. But there are things we also do that show veterans that what they did, what they learned counts, it matters, and we are going to recognize that as employers, as coworkers, as Members of Congress.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, in the Marine Corps, we have a motto: *Semper Fidelis*. It means "always faithful"—always faithful to our Nation and to the brave patriots who have honorably served it.

Just last week, we recognized a day that is very special to me and I think to all Americans—Veterans Day. On this important occasion, we say thank you to our veterans, to those who have worn the uniform for their courage and for their commitment to protecting our freedoms and preserving our very way of life.

Their service, of course, should be an example to all of us. I try to instill this in my children. It is something I discuss at school groups oftentimes, encouraging people to think about maybe spending some time in military service or finding other ways to serve their fellow Americans.

Our veterans help keep us safe during times of great uncertainty and unease—something all of us, I think, appreciate a little bit more during this trying year.

The month of November also marks Military Family Appreciation Month. Our military families don't always get the credit they deserve, but they bear a very special and unique burden on behalf of our country that, frankly, most of us cannot fully understand. They sacrifice their peace of mind and their well-being on behalf of their neighbors, their communities, and their fellow Americans, people they have never met—What could be more beautiful than that?—because they believe in this Nation and they believe in this country and the values that undergird it.

Even though we can't begin to repay the sacrifices they make on our behalf,

we can honor them, and we can express our gratitude. So this Thanksgiving season, this time for counting our blessings and celebrating how many of them we enjoy even amidst this global pandemic, may we remember all that we are thankful for—every bit of it—and who we are thankful for, as well—yes, our family members, our neighbors, and our close friends, but I personally am thankful for our Active-Duty servicemembers. I am thankful for Indiana's more than 400,000 veterans. I am thankful for their selfless families.

I hope all Americans will join me today, this month, this Thanksgiving, and every day thereafter and reflect on these men and women, the fellow Americans who sacrifice so much on behalf of all of us. Our country simply would not be the same without them; it arguably wouldn't exist without the families who are prepared to sacrifice so much.

So God bless our Active-Duty servicemembers, God bless our veterans, and God bless our military families, and may God continue to bless this great country, the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Vaden nomination?

Mr. ENZI. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), 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," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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|-----------|---------|---------|
| Barrasso | Cassidy | Daines |
| Blackburn | Collins | Enzi |
| Blunt | Cornyn | Ernst |
| Boozman | Cotton | Fischer |
| Braun | Cramer | Graham |
| Burr | Crapo | Hawley |
| Capito | Cruz | Hoeven |

Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Loeffler
McConnell
McSally
Moran

Murkowski
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse

Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

NAYS—43

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Gillibrand
Hassan

Heinrich
Hirono
Jones
Kaine
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Peters
Reed

Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Warren
Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander
Feinstein
Gardner

Grassley
Harris
Sanders

Scott (FL)
Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Mizelle nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Tom Cotton, John Boozman, John Hoeven, Lindsey Graham.

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 Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

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 Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), 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," the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—8

| | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| Alexander | Grassley | Sanders |
| Feinstein | Harris | Scott (FL) |
| Gardner | Murray | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.