

The last thing the American people need right now are higher taxes, more debt, and higher prices. Yet this is all that today's Democrat Party has to offer.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON COBB NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cobb nomination?

Mr. MURPHY. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 432 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Feinstein	Rounds
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The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WILLIAMS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Williams nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 433 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Lujan	Tillis
Coons	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Manchin	Rounds
Feinstein	Marshall	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON GILES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Giles nomination?

Mr. LEAHY. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 434 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blunt	Hirono	Romney
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Lee	Tester
Cassidy	Lujan	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Toomey
Coons	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young
Grassley	Paul	

NAYS—27

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Daines	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	Moran	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	Manchin	Sinema
Feinstein	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The yeas are 68, the nays are 27.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
BERTON J. MCQUEEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week, more than 76 years after he was killed in the Second World War, Army Private First Class Berton J. McQueen was returned home to Jackson County, KY. His family reburied him with full military honors outside the Wind Cave Baptist Church in McKee, ending a seven-decade journey from Kentucky, to Italy, to France, and finally back home again. Today, I

recognize Private First Class McQueen as a Kentucky hero who fought and died defending our sacred freedoms and honor the steadfast family members and public servants who brought him home.

McQueen was only 20 years old when, as part of Operation Dragoon, he and his platoon landed in the Rhone Valley to liberate France from its German occupiers. Facing stiff resistance and heavy fire, his unit scattered across the countryside. By the time the smoke cleared and the enemy retreated, McQueen was lost.

Two years later, the American Graves Registration Command recovered a soldier's body from a farmyard in the area where McQueen had gone missing. Local authorities could not verify the soldier's identity, so he was reburied in an anonymous grave in Normandy. Back home in Jackson County, the McQueen family prayed their lost son would be found.

Last week, those prayers were finally answered. With the help of new DNA technology, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the body as Berton McQueen's. They sent him home to Jackson County, where he is now buried next to the church where he was baptized, nearly a century earlier. With bagpipes and bugles playing, an honor guard marching, and the extended McQueen family gathered together again, Private First Class Berton McQueen was finally given the hero's return he deserved.

Our Nation's military is diligent in finding and honoring its missing servicemembers. All over Kentucky and across the country, the POW/MIA Accounting Agency has reunited lost sons and daughters with their loved ones. This program offers important help to grieving families and honors our country's most sacred obligation to those who serve. The Agency's motto is "fulfilling our nation's promise," and, as the McQueen family's story demonstrates, they go to extraordinary lengths to carry out that creed.

The Lexington Herald-Leader published a comprehensive account of Private First Class Berton McQueen's life and journey in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Lexington Herald-Leader, October 17, 2021]

'I'VE WAITED FOR THIS.' KENTUCKY WWII SOLDIER UNIDENTIFIED FOR DECADES COMES HOME

Nannie McQueen was desperate to find out what had happened to her son in World War II.

Army Pfc. Berton J. McQueen had been badly wounded by artillery fire while his unit was fighting German troops near a small town in France in November 1944.

He died at an aid station set up in a barn, and amid the chaos of war, someone buried him in a garden.

American troops didn't recover his body until after the war in Europe ended months later, and he couldn't be identified.

The Army notified McQueen's parents in Jackson County that he was listed as killed in action, but with few details and no one to bury, his mother couldn't accept it.

She wrote letters to soldiers who served with him to try to figure out what had happened to him and put advertisements in a farming magazine and other publications seeking information, said his niece, Genevieve Palm.

When her grandmother went to town, she left the door at her house unlocked so her son could get in if he came home, Palm said.

"She couldn't give up," Palm said of her grandmother.

"I can't imagine what kind of torture that would have been."

Now, Berton McQueen is home.

Based on historical research, dental records and analysis of DNA samples from Palm and other family members, officials with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the body recovered from the garden in France as McQueen, according to a news release.

McQueen was accounted for in July, more than 76 years after he was killed at age 20.

He was reburied Saturday with full military honors in Jackson County, in the hillside cemetery at the Wind Cave Baptist Church. McQueen attended the small wooden church as a boy and was baptized in a creek nearby.

A bugler played "Taps," and a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" before members of the honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and folded the flag from his casket to give to his family.

McQueen was raised on a small farm in the Wind Cave community, the youngest of seven children of John and Nancy Jane "Nannie" McQueen, said Palm, whose mother was one of Berton McQueen's sisters.

Like thousands of others who grew up on Kentucky farms in those days, McQueen moved to Indiana to find work. He was living in Connersville when he was drafted, Palm said.

McQueen was wounded fighting in Italy in February 1944, spending 11 weeks in the hospital, and was wounded again in August 1944, spending several more weeks in the hospital.

His family hoped he would come home, but McQueen wanted to finish the job. He believed that if the U.S. and allies didn't carry the fight to the Nazis in Europe, the war would come to America, said Palm, who has letters he sent to his family.

"He felt a strong duty," Palm said. "He said, 'I will come home when the rest do.'"

McQueen landed in southern France in August 1944 as part of Operation Dragoon, pushing north through the Rhone Valley to meet up with forces that had gone ashore in the massive D-Day invasion and then turn to the final assault on Germany.

McQueen saw plenty of combat but didn't write about the horror of war in his letters home because he didn't want to worry his parents, Palm said.

Instead, he wrote about the people and the beauty he saw, Palm said, though he did mention in one letter in mid-1944 that U.S. troops were driving the Germans back.

"He said, 'We have'm on the run now,'" Palm said.

But his unit ran into stiff resistance in a battle in a hilly region near the border with Germany, according to the Army's account.

As German infantry pursued his unit, McQueen was going to get more ammunition for his machine-gun platoon when he was hit by shrapnel.

One soldier later told Army investigators he helped carry McQueen to an aid station, and that when he asked later how the badly wounded man was doing, he was told McQueen had died, Palm said.

McQueen's battalion, which suffered heavy casualties, was forced to pull back and was in "disarray" for a period before regrouping, according to an account from the Army, Palm said.

It's not clear why McQueen went missing or who buried him. After German troops withdrew a few days later, U.S. troops didn't find his body.

A woman who lived on the farm later disclosed that an American soldier had been buried there. The American Graves Registration Command recovered a body in April 1946 but couldn't identify the soldier.

He was reburied under the designation X-6093 at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, until science could solve the mystery.

Palm was born 10 years after her uncle died but lived close to her grandmother and heard stories about him.

"We really grew up with that grief for her, and that loss," said Palm, a retired property manager who lives in Laurel County.

McQueen's mother died in 1972. Years later, the local bank president called Palm's mother to report there was money in an account Nannie McQueen had kept.

She had been putting money away for her son to use when he came home, Palm said.

Palm read a letter at the church Saturday from an Army buddy of McQueen's that her grandmother had contacted just before Christmas in 1945.

Louie Hughes said in his letter back to McQueen's mother that McQueen often talked of his home and his family while he was overseas, and that the two of them talked about the Bible into the night at times.

McQueen had drawn a sketch of how to get to his house in Jackson County in Hughes' Bible so he could visit after the war.

The two later got assigned to different companies, and then Hughes was captured and spent 16 "horrible months" in a German prison camp, he said, so he hadn't heard that McQueen had been killed before McQueen's mother wrote him.

He told McQueen's parents to be brave because that's what their son would have wanted. The "brave deeds of such men as Berton" were the reason "that we enjoy peace today," Hughes wrote.

Palm wishes her mother had lived to know her brother had been identified, but she died in 2008. Palm, a Christian, believes her mother and grandmother were reunited with McQueen in heaven long ago.

Family members felt new grief when the Army notified them McQueen had been accounted for but were also thankful.

"I consider it a miracle," Palm said. "My whole lifetime I've waited for something like this."

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS,

Washington, DC, October 26, 2021.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN796, the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, having been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,