

reached our shores. For future Afghan arrivals, it is clear that the vetting and interview process must be strengthened and enforced. And, again, in talking to the Federal officials on the ground overseas, they would agree.

It is not too much to ask that Afghan refugees be treated the same as all refugees when it comes to security vetting. We can't continue to allow a lack of effective screening of Afghan evacuees to endanger our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The senior Senator from Maryland.

(The remarks of Mr. CARDIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3166 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 505 and 506; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Geraldine Richmond, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy; and M. Camille Calimlim Touton, of Nevada, to be Commissioner of Reclamation, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if applicable, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 491, Jonathan Kanter, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General; that there be 10 minutes for debate,

equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nomination; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order on the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. 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.

CONFIRMATION OF ADRIENNE WOJCIECHOWSKI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that yesterday, the Senate confirmed Adrienne Wojciechowski to be the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture—USDA—a role for which is eminently qualified. For more than a decade, Adrienne has been an indispensable staff member in the Senate, dedicated to supporting farmers, growing our rural economies, and tackling climate change and land stewardship challenges. Adrienne has earned deep respect from on both sides of the aisle.

Adrienne first joined my staff in 2007 and quickly became a key member of my legislative team on topics ranging from agriculture to water quality to climate change. Adrienne was immediately involved in 2008 farm bill negotiations and played an integral staff role in negotiating substantial portions of the 2014 and 2018 farm bills.

Over the years, I could always count on Adrienne's persistence, attention to detail, and sound judgement. Adrienne brought these same gifts to her work with USDA partners in Vermont, carefully building trusting relationships that enabled my legislative work to be informed by on-the-ground, State-level delivery of USDA programs.

Most recently, Adrienne has served as a professional staff member on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, managing Senators' diverse spending priorities in the annual appropriations cycle and negotiating bipartisan final bills.

I have served on the Senate Agriculture Committee since I first came to the Senate. There is an old saying that Vermont without farms would

still be a nice place, but it wouldn't be Vermont. While she is not a native Vermonter herself, it has been a pleasure to see Adrienne form such deep relationships with Vermont's agrarian traditions, our farmers, and our landscape. Whether it was navigating USDA bureaucracy or rebuilding a barn after a fire, farmers and the agriculture community in Vermont knew that a call to my office would get Adrienne on the case.

Although Senate staff work behind the scenes and their contributions can go unheralded, the impact of Adrienne's dedication, her contributions to conservation policy, farm viability, and farmland protection programs can truly be seen on the landscape of Vermont and across the country. On behalf of all Vermonters, I thank Adrienne Wojciechowski for her service to the U.S. Senate and wish her the best of luck as she joins the Biden administration.

REMEMBERING NEAL SMITH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to expand on my tribute to former Iowa Congressman Neal Smith.

As I said yesterday, he was a true public servant, interested in doing right by his State rather than seeking self-aggrandizement. He was a real legislator, not a would-be pundit seeking the spotlight. These are attributes that make him a role model, and I feel lucky to have been mentored by him. When I was elected, I was the only Republican in the Iowa delegation. He didn't care that I was of a different party. He knew we both had our political views, but we were both there to represent the state we love. I will never forget his kindness in taking me under wing.

Neal Smith is a legend in Iowa, as evidenced by the fact that his name is attached to several Iowa institutions, including the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, which he was instrumental in establishing, the Neal Smith Trail, the Neal Smith Federal Building in Des Moines, which I helped to name after him with Senator Harkin, and the Neal and Bea Smith Law Center at their alma mater, Drake University.

His legislative legacy includes a long stint as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Neal Smith was instrumental in creating Lake Red Rock, Saylorville Lake, and Lake Rathbun, which help protect Iowans from flooding, serve as reservoirs, and provide recreational opportunities for Iowans.

He also authored legislation to help small businesses after a disaster and legislation helping small businesses with federal government contracts.

Perhaps his most prominent legislative accomplishment was passing legislation combatting nepotism in the Federal Government.

Neal Smith served in World War II as a bomber pilot, was shot down, and received a Purple Heart, as well as other medals.

He and his wife Bea attended Drake University Law School together. When they graduated, she was offered less than him for the same job with the same firm despite her having had better grades, so he turned down the job and opened a practice with her.

He soon entered public service locally, serving as assistant Polk County attorney and as chairman of the Polk County Welfare Board.

In 1958, Neal Smith was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served for 36 years, longer than any other Iowan has served in the U.S. House.

Even though he represented Iowa's largest metropolitan area, he came from a farm background like me and continued to farm near Altoona during his time in office.

I remember him as a strong defender of agriculture.

I value the friendship I had with Neal Smith starting as a freshmen Congressman and continuing through his time after leaving Congress.

Again, I pay tribute to this humble public servant. Barbara and I will continue to remember his family in our prayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DOROTHY JACKSON

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an Ohio trailblazer who we lost last month, the first woman to serve as deputy mayor for the city of Akron, Dorothy Ola Jackson.

Former Akron mayor Tom Sayer, who nominated her to become deputy mayor, called her an "urbanist saint." And she was. Born in Akron, OH, in 1933, Dorothy Ola Jackson's life of service was molded by the loss of her brother and parents before the age of 24. She became a fierce advocate for families and for her community.

For 12 years, she worked at Goodwill, starting as a secretary and rising to serve as assistant public relations director. She helped organize special projects and volunteer efforts. Knowing American Sign Language and as a person of deep faith, she would sign a Bible reading to the company's 30 deaf employees every morning.

She went on to work as a human services administrator for Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority for 16 years, where she helped transform the agency.

In 1984, Dorothy Ola Jackson became deputy mayor of intergovernmental relations, where she continued advocating for those who often had no other voice in the city. During her first year in office, she helped organize the city's first day camp for disabled children.

She said, "People who have never had a voice in government can now get a little closer."

Deputy Mayor Jackson has received many awards and accolades throughout

her life, including the United Way Distinguished Service Award, the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award, the Akron Urban League's Community Service Award, and in 1984, she was named Woman of the Year by Akron Business and Professional Women-USA.

But she often said the most meaningful honor came when the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority named a property that houses disabled residents, the Dorothy O. Jackson Terrace Apartments in downtown Akron.

Dorothy dedicated her life to serving and helping others and to making Akron a better place for all its residents. The legacy of Deputy Mayor Jackson will live on through her far-reaching work and through the many lives she touched.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KRISTINA M. JOHNSON

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Kristina M. Johnson and celebrating her investiture as the 16th president of The Ohio State University. As an alum of the university and longtime friend of the Ohio State community, I know the investiture of a president is a significant milestone in the life of this land-grant university.

Since The Ohio State University was founded in 1870, the institution has been guided by 16 presidents, each of whom has left a lasting mark on the history of the university. Since taking office as president on August 24, 2020, Dr. Johnson has already begun to make an impact at Ohio State. She has worked to be an inclusive leader and advance the university's mission to uplift lives through academic and research excellence.

Dr. Johnson has close family ties to Ohio State and Ohio. Her grandfather graduated from Ohio State in 1896, played right guard on one of the early football teams, and was a member of the Tesla Club. Dr. Johnson brings a wealth of experience to this role, having served in numerous leadership roles at prestigious institutions for higher education, most recently as chancellor of the State University of New York. And she has been a public servant, serving as Under Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. Dr. Johnson is married to Veronica Meinhard, and it has been a pleasure to get to know them and discuss the work we can do together to support Ohio students.

With Dr. Johnson's more than 30 years of experience and leadership, the future of Ohio State is indeed bright. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating this momentous occasion for this university, which is so important to the central Ohio community and to our State. Connie and I wish Dr. Johnson, Veronica, and the entire Buckeye Community well as they embark on this journey together.●

REMEMBERING LYNN AAS

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on October 28, North Dakota lost one of our heroes. Lynn Aas of Minot, age 100, was to many of us the face of the very best of the Greatest Generation. This child of the Great Depression was raised on a farm near Benedict, ND, and was among the 60,000 North Dakotans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1942, after completing his first year of college. He became part of the 193rd Glider Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division and, after extensive training, was shipped to Liverpool, England, 2 years later.

Lynn's first combat experience was the Battle of the Bulge, one of the costliest battles in American history with more than 80,000 U.S. casualties, including 19,000 American soldiers killed. His division and unit were flown to France and transported by trucks to Bastogne on December 24, 1944. His platoon entered combat on January 7, fighting in deep snow, frigid cold, and heavy fog. Beginning with 55 troopers, Lynn was one of only five survivors to leave the front lines 3 weeks later. The end of January brought his first 2 nights of sleep under a roof in 5 weeks. In February, his platoon fought along the Seigfried Line on Nazi Germany's border.

Later in March 1945, he participated in Operation Varsity, the last large-scale Allied airborne operation of the war. There he was towed in a glider and landed behind enemy lines near Wesel, Germany. Lynn's combat career ended on March 25 when he was wounded in his left arm by shrapnel. Following extensive recuperation back in America, Lynn remained in the Army another 5 months before being honorably discharged on November 1, 1945.

For his valor and commendable 18 months of service during World War II, he was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals, in addition to the Glider Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Arrowhead and three Bronze Campaign Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After his discharge, Lynn earned business and law degrees from the University of North Dakota, and moved to Minot in 1960, where he and his wife Beverly raised four sons. He managed a medical clinic until retirement, served in the North Dakota Legislature for 8 years and was a delegate to the State's 1972 Constitutional Convention. Until his final days, Lynn remained active in the Minot community.

He shared his World War II story throughout his life, giving a voice to all veterans whose lives were forever impacted because of their selfless service. Lynn attended reunions of the 17th Airborne Division, and in 1999, he visited Europe with other 17th Airborne Division veterans, visiting the locations where they had fought more than