

vote on the confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 12; and that following the disposition of the Mendoza nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Freeman nomination.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 727, 858, 1110, 1134; 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; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Dimitri Kusnezov, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security; Jennifer H. Rearden, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; Puneet Talwar, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Morocco; and Natalie K. Wight, of Oregon, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of four years en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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. 1096, David Pekoske to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration; that there be 10 minutes equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I was unable to attend this afternoon's vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 986 Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

I would have voted yea on the motion had I been able attend.

#### REMEMBERING SAMUEL F. SANDOVAL, SR.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is my honor to recognize the heroic life of Samuel F. Sandoval, Sr., who passed away on July 29, 2022. Mr. Sandoval had been one of the last four remaining Navajo Code Talkers who served during World War II and whose unbreakable code using the Navajo language delivered military communications and played an indispensable role in America's victory in the Pacific.

Mr. Sandoval was Naasht'ézhi Dine'ésh, Zuni Clan, and born for Tl'aáshchí'í, Red Cheek People. He was born on October 24, 1923, in Kimbeto, NM, near Chaco Canyon and graduated in 1942 from the Navajo Methodist Mission School in Farmington, NM, where he was discouraged from using the Navajo language.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in March of 1943 and completed his basic training Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA, where the original 29 Code Talkers had arrived the previous fall. After transferring to Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, CA, he and other Code Talkers created more than 600 codes using words from the Navajo Language. As one of the 418 Navajo Code Talkers, he used the 813-word Navajo code to securely send and receive military communications.

Mr. Sandoval served in five combat tours, including Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Peleliu, and Okinawa, before his honorable discharge in January 1946. In recognition of his military service, Mr. Sandoval received the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, a Combat Action Ribbon, a China Service Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, a Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, and an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with a silver star, in lieu of five bronze stars.

After the war, Mr. Sandoval earned a degree in substance abuse counseling from the University of Utah. He worked for many years as a counselor, assisting Navajo people experiencing alcohol addiction and substance use disorders at his clinic, To-Tah Alcohol Counseling.

Like other Code Talkers, Mr. Sandoval had strict orders not to dis-

cuss their secret mission during the war or until it was declassified decades later in 1968. After their role was revealed publicly, Mr. Sandoval and his late brother, Merrill Sandoval, took immense pride in their experiences as Code Talkers and worked to educate the public about their contributions. Mr. Sandoval told his personal account in both a book and documentary titled, "Naz Bah Ei Bijei: Heart of a Warrior."

In 2001, Mr. Sandoval received a Congressional Silver Medal from President George W. Bush in recognition of his service as a Code Talker. Earlier this year, during his last trip away from home, Mr. Sandoval received American Spirit Award for Bravery from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, LA. He was looking forward to attending the groundbreaking for the Navajo Code Talker Museum in Tse Bonito, NM, which took place on National Navajo Code Talkers Day on August 14.

My thoughts are with his widow, Malula, his surviving siblings, his six children, his 33 grandchildren, his 33 great-grandchildren, and all those on the Navajo Nation and in New Mexico who he inspired through his incredible life of service.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING SANDY WILLIAMS

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last weekend, 10 people were tragically killed in a plane crash near Whidbey Island, WA, sending waves of shock and sadness through the entire State. Today, I join with communities across Washington in honoring their memories and grieving this immeasurable loss for their families and friends.

One of these 10 people was Sandy Williams, a beloved member of the eastern Washington community, and a powerful civil rights advocate who worked to lift up Black voices across the State. Sandy Williams was born and raised in Spokane Valley and, starting at a young age, worked hard in pursuit of equality and justice. In fact, when her middle school offered a home economics class for girls but wouldn't allow them to take the shop class with the boys, she refused to take no for an answer and pushed back until she and other girls were allowed to take shop. Her fight for fairness and equality would lead her to leave an indelible mark on eastern Washington which she loved so dearly, in so many ways.

Sandy helped establish the Pride Center at Eastern Washington University to support LGBTQ+ youth. Sandy also served eastern Washington as its member of the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs. And she worked nonstop to lift Black voices and create a community where everyone is heard, included, and empowered.

In 2016, Sandy started publishing a newspaper called "Black Lens"—that she ran out of her home—to tell the

stories that mattered most to Black Washingtonians. Sandy was dedicated to a vision of eastern Washington where Black people could come together as a community and worked hard to make that vision a reality by helping create the Carl Maxey Center. The Carl Maxey Center is a testament to Sandy's legacy; it remains a hub of economic, social, and cultural activity in Spokane. It provides rental assistance, social services, business support, resources for students, and more. It helps plan beloved events like Unity in the Community and the Riverfront Park Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. And it will continue to be an example of Sandy's steadfast commitment to community.

Through her advocacy, through her example, and through her action to make dreams realities, Sandy made Washington State a fairer, more just place, and her legacy and impact will endure for generations to come.

Sandy is survived by her daughter Renika, her brother Rick, and many loved ones in Spokane.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE HITCHING POST AND OLD COUNTRY STORE OF AURORA, KENTUCKY

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as a ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize The Hitching Post and Old Country Store of Aurora, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

For generations, Land Between the Lakes has been one of the premier travel destinations in Western Kentucky. The gorgeous strip of land nestled between lakes Barkley and Kentucky contains breathtaking nature scenes, a plethora of outdoor activities, and numerous local businesses that visitors travel from far and wide to enjoy. A local favorite among those many businesses is The Hitching Post and Old Country Store. Located on 4 and a half acre property on the western side of Kentucky Lake, The Hitching Post and Old Country Store first opened their doors to customers in 1941. The structures themselves are over 200 years old, but starting with the Perryman family in 1941, three families of stewards have maintained these stores in all their historic glory. Today, the stores are owned by Su Festen and her husband Tom Trenkle, who ventured south from Illinois to buy the property in 2008. In the years since, Su will tell you that she has grown a Southern heart, which is more than evident in the warm hospitality she shows to all who dawn her doors.

Though The Hitching Post and the Old Country Store needed some notable maintenance when it came into Tom and Su's hands, they both decided to maintain the old-fashioned nature to

the interior of the stores. Su was inspired to perpetuate the historic feeling of the property on her first day on the job as one of the very first patrons to come in was a fourth-generation customer with an abundance of love for these two stores. From then on, Su and her husband ensured that The Hitching Post and Old Country Store would be a place where everyone from out of town travelers to generational customers and locals could come to reminisce, remember, and enjoy the simpler things that only a small-town small business could provide.

When travelers traverse the beautiful land between lakes Barkley and Kentucky, they are confronted with the abounding beauty of the landscape surrounding them. Given this gorgeous scenery, it would be easy to overlook the charming shops around them. This is not the case for patrons of The Hitching Post and its neighboring Old Country Store. Customers are struck by the old-fashioned interior which harkens back to memories from a simpler time. From the stacks of local fruit preserves and canned country favorites, to spiced apple cider, customers are reminded of a time when local produce was the all that was available before the days of instant gratification fostered by online shopping and rapid delivery.

Not only are the two stores brimming over with charm, the two provide a wide variety of products to satisfy every traveler. If you are looking for something sweet to snack on for the trip home, you will find a delightful selection of homemade fudge and crates filled to the brim with saltwater taffy and old-fashioned candy. However, there is one offering that sticks out above all the others. As soon as you enter the Old Country Store, your eyes are immediately drawn to the towering wall of old-fashioned glass bottled sodas that line the back wall of the store. With over 200 different flavors offered, ranging from classic root beers to seasonal soda recipes, it is nearly impossible to choose what unique sodas to try, which is one of the many reasons why customers often return to The Hitching Post and Old Country Store year after year. To brighten up the weekends of their customers, Su and Tom created their weekly All-American Soda Showdown. From May to September, the most indecisive or adventurous customer can come in Sunday afternoons to sample both new and old flavors of soda the Old Country Store has to offer.

However, both The Hitching Post and Old Country Stores have more than just sweet treats for the car ride home. Customers can also find a collection of retro toys and trinkets that introduce new generations to the beloved pastimes of their parents and grandparents. Family of some of the previous owners of the stores were avid collectors of unique items and oddities. Customers are encouraged to peruse

their treasure trove of antiques and vintage novelties great for giving as gifts or keeping for home decor. One notable item on display is a moonshine still designed by Casey Jones, a famous Prohibition-era moonshiner whose brew was enjoyed by notable mob-boss Al Capone. Even upon exiting the stores visitors will encounter an array of impressive chainsaw carvings of forest creatures and mythical characters hand-crafted by talented local artisans.

There is something about family vacations that is uniquely American. The places that families travel for both relaxation and recreation hold a special place in the hearts of those who visit them. All across the country are areas like Land Between the Lakes whose beauty is enjoyed by generations of families who bring their children and grandchildren to relish in the wonder they themselves appreciated as children. Part of this landscape are small businesses like The Hitching Post and Old Country Store that bravely confront the onward march of time. Though their original customers have aged over the 81 years that they have been open, the stores themselves remain ageless, as they look just like they did since that first year of operation in 1941. For decades, these stores have been serving local Kentuckians and travelers alike, and it is clear that they will be cherished for generations to come. Congratulations to Tom Trenkle and Su Festen, along with the entire team at The Hitching Post and Old Country Store. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4787. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benoxacor; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9925-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.