

twelve unions involved in these negotiations think that is a pretty good deal, and they voted to approve the agreement.

Still, we find ourselves in this scenario because railroad companies won't budge on granting railroad workers any paid sick days. That is wrong and something we should work to address but not at the risk of a devastating rail shutdown.

My colleagues and I do not take lightly the notion that Congress is intervening in a labor dispute. We don't normally do that. In this case, there is a lot at stake. Today, our House colleagues passed legislation, I am told, to avert a rail strike. I think the vote was overwhelming—290 to 137. I am hopeful we will do the same in the Senate well before the December 9 deadline.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN MACK AND CAROLINE JONES

Madam President, last but not least, I want to take a moment to recognize two terrific members of our staff on the Environment and Public Works Committee, which I am privileged to lead along with Senator SHELLEY CAPITO.

Two of our finest are going to be leaving us this week. Carolyn Mack, our committee operations manager, departs our office today, which coincidentally is her birthday day. She is retiring after 29 years of Senate service.

Carolyn came to the Environment and Public Works Committee 21 years ago when, I think, Jim Jeffords was our chairman. She has faithfully served not one, not two, but three EPW chairs, including Senator Jeffords, Senator Boxer, and now yours truly.

Many of our colleagues have heard me say that Senators cannot do all that we do without our staff. I hire people smarter than I with better hearts and minds. Carolyn is right up there at the top. Quite simply, she is the heart and the soul of our EPW operations. Everyone in the Senate buildings, from the furniture department to the parking staff, including the graphics department, knows, loves, and respects Carolyn.

At her recent retirement party, Carolyn reflected on what she liked about her job. Here is what she said: "I like to help people." That is what she said: "I like to help people." What a humble and lovely way to view one's job in the U.S. Senate—namely, that it is something that comes and flows from wanting to serve.

We are grateful for Carolyn's help all these years and wish her the very best in retirement.

Lastly, also departing Saturday is Caroline Jones. Caroline started with us at EPW 4 years ago as an intern. The Presiding Officer knows how important interns are to us. It is like a farm system, if you will, of a great staff.

She has blossomed into an integral member of our staff, working with our climate and clean air team. This year, she was the lead for us working to rat-

ify the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol, something that she did an incredible job with as we phased down HFCs, hydrofluorocarbons, which are a thousand times worse than CO<sub>2</sub> in terms of climate change. And it not only did that, but provides jobs—not just climate change but provides jobs—thousands, tens of thousands of jobs—and billions of dollars of economic opportunity. She gave us a big assist on the plate with that.

But we will miss Caroline's attention to detail, and we are going to miss her hard work. But we know she is not going too far. She is joining the staff of the Federal Highway Administration's climate office. We know she will bring her talents to that office, and they will be the better for it, as will our country.

You can leave the payroll, but you can never leave "Carpertown." As they say in the Eagles in "Hotel California," "You can check out, but you can never leave."

That certainly is true in this case.

As we say to our departing staff members, we say in the Navy, wishing you fair winds and following seas.

God bless you both.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF CAMILLE L. VELEZ-RIVE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate continues the important work of confirming highly qualified, diverse nominees to the Federal judiciary, as we take up the nomination of Judge Camille Velez-Rive, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Judge Velez-Rive has served as a magistrate judge for the District of Puerto Rico for the past 18 years. In that time, she has presided over 20 jury trials and six bench trials, including both civil and criminal proceedings.

Before joining the bench, Judge Velez-Rive was an associate at a San Juan-based firm, where she practiced for 3 years. She then served as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico for 6 years. During that time, she worked for 2 years within the criminal appellate division, briefing more than 80 criminal appeals and arguing 10 appeals before the First Circuit. Judge Velez-Rive then spent 4 more years in the civil division, handling approximately 65 cases.

Judge Velez-Rive earned her B.A. with college honors from Washington University in St. Louis and her J.D. magna cum laude from the University of Puerto Rico Law School. After graduating, she went on to clerk for the Honorable Francisco Rebollo-Lopez on the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Judge Velez-Rive as "well qualified" to serve on the District of Puerto Rico.

As a long-serving Federal judge with extensive trial experience, Judge Velez-Rive is highly qualified to continue her service to the District of

Puerto Rico as a Federal district court judge.

I look forward to supporting this well-qualified nominee and urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

NOMINATION OF ANNE M. NARDACCI

Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Anne Nardacci to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Ms. Nardacci is a seasoned practitioner with a broad range of litigation experience and deep ties to the Northern District.

She was born in Albany, NY, and attended Georgetown University and Cornell Law School before beginning her legal career at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom in Manhattan. There, Ms. Nardacci specialized in merger review and antitrust litigation.

Since 2005, she has worked at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP in Albany, where her practice has focused on complex commercial litigation, including antitrust, fair competition, bankruptcy, and fraud matters. Throughout the course of her career, Ms. Nardacci has represented large companies, small businesses, and classes of individuals. Impressively, 90 percent of her practice has been in Federal court.

Despite her demanding career in private practice, Ms. Nardacci has managed to dedicate a significant portion of her time to pro bono work. She has defended the civil rights of inmates and represented survivors of domestic abuse.

Ms. Nardacci's distinguished career is a testament to her commitment to equal justice under law. She received a "qualified" rating from the American Bar Association and has the strong support of New York's Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this outstanding nominee to the Federal bench.

VOTE ON VELEZ-RIVE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Velez-Rive 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 Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 365 Ex.]

## YEAS—55

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

## NAYS—42

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

## NOT VOTING—3

Hagerty	Sasse	Warnock
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The nomination was confirmed.

## VOTE ON NARDACCI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Anne M. Nardacci, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York?

Mr. CARDIN. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 366 Ex.]

## YEAS—52

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Markey
Bennet	Graham	Menendez
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Booker	Heinrich	Murphy
Brown	Hickenlooper	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Ossoff
Cardin	Kaine	Padilla
Carper	Kelly	Peters
Casey	Kennedy	Reed
Coons	King	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Rounds
Duckworth	Leahy	Schatz
Durbin	Lujan	Schumer
Feinstein	Manchin	Shaheen

Sinema	Tillis	Whitehouse
Smith	Van Hollen	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	
Tester	Warren	

## NAYS—44

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

## NOT VOTING—4

Hagerty	Sasse
Sanders	Warnock

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.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I would like to ask for an opportunity to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER.

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

## REMEMBERING A. DONALD MCEACHIN

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I am trying to make Senate history as the first Senator to give a speech with a visual aid that is a picture of a T-shirt. So we will see if the Senate Historian will back me up on this.

This is a T-shirt that is 21 years old, and it is a Warner-Kaine-McEachin T-shirt. I had moved recently from my house of 30 years into a condo, and there were boxes of stuff that still months later I am trying to unpack. Over the weekend, I got into one of these boxes, with a little free time at the end of Thanksgiving weekend. The goal was to go through it and throw away as much as I could.

I was going through these T-shirts, and I came across this one. This is a T-shirt from a 2001 campaign in Virginia where three longtime friends—MARK WARNER, TIM KAINE, and Donald McEachin—shared a ticket running for Virginia Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and attorney general.

When I came across the T-shirt, the first thing I noticed is that I am a little bigger than I was 21 years ago, and it doesn't really fit, and so I put it in the Goodwill pile. But then, as I got

through the whole box and I was about to make that decision, I thought, you know, I think I should pull this one out of the Goodwill pile and save it, and I did. I washed it, and I put it in the drawer.

Obviously, MARK and I are here on the floor today because our dear friend Donald McEachin, 61 years old, Member of Congress, from Virginia—my congressman, the Fourth Congressional District—we got the surprising news last night, and I heard about it first from MARK, that Donald had passed away in his sleep at home in Richmond and had been found by his wife Collette, who is also a very dear friend. So MARK and I wanted to come to the floor today and just talk a little bit about Donald. I will talk for a bit and then ask MARK to offer his reflections.

I met Donald when I was 26 years old and he was 24. I met MARK 4 years before. So these are three people who have known each other now for basically 40 years. I had moved to Richmond, where I only knew one person in Virginia—my soon-to-be wife. I had taken a job at a law firm, and I was given the last office down the hall.

A few months after I joined the firm in September of 1984, a very personable guy came in and said, "Who is in my office?" And it was Donald McEachin. Donald had worked at the firm as a summer associate the summer before and was now at the University of Virginia Law School and came to find me occupying the place where he had worked the previous summer. His challenge to me began a wonderful friendship.

Donald soon graduated from the University of Virginia and came to Richmond, the city of his birth and upbringing, to practice law at a different firm. We had cases together. Soon after he came, he became engaged to an attorney, who is now the Commonwealth's attorney, the chief prosecutor in Richmond, Collette Wallace—Collette Wallace McEachin. They had a big wedding party in Richmond at the Marriott Hotel, which my wife Anne and I were proud to be invited to. And we just began this wonderful friendship with these two couples.

Donald was one of the most successful trial attorneys in Richmond. He started a firm after he had practiced with a larger firm. He and two great twin brothers, Donald and Earl Gee, started a wonderful law firm. He won history-making verdicts in Virginia as a plaintiff's personal injury lawyer, but he was always passionate about public service. He had gone to American University and had been president of the student body there. Then when he went back to Virginia to go to UVA Law School, he always had in his mind that he wanted to do something in the public service realm.

So about the time I was running for city council in Richmond in 1994, Donald ran and successfully became a member of the Virginia General Assembly in the House of Delegates. He