

more—at this point, even more—liberal domestic spending in exchange for giving our Armed Forces what they actually need. Our Commander in Chief and his party have spent huge sums on domestic priorities outside the normal appropriations process without a penny for the Defense Department. Obviously, we won't allow them to now hijack the government funding process as well and take our troops hostage for even more spending.

Protecting America is our job. Republicans will not be bribing our Democratic colleagues with special treats, as if they need to be bargained into defending America. The sooner the Democrats fully accept this reality, the sooner we can get on with the people's business. That goes for both the NDAA and the government funding as well.

TRIBUTE TO ROB PORTMAN

Mr. President, now on one final matter, fewer than 40 miles from Ohio's border with Kentucky, about halfway between Cincinnati and Dayton, is a suburb called Lebanon. The corner of Main Street and Broadway looks much like it did almost a century ago in 1926. That is when a young couple, Robert and Virginia Jones, bought and renovated an unassuming brick building called the Golden Lamb Restaurant and Hotel. But the Golden Lamb's modest exterior conceals major history. Its prime location on the highway between Cincinnati and Columbus made it a key stopover for important travelers.

By 1926, each of our country's eight Presidents from Ohio, plus Henry Clay, plus a long list of other luminaries—every one of them had spent a night at this particular inn or at least broken bread in its dining room.

The Joneses' smalltown American entrepreneurial spirit wrote their family right into the history of American statesmanship. As it turned out, it also started a family tradition because a few years later, those newly minted innkeepers had a daughter named Joan, and then Joan and her husband Bill had their own kids. Although Bill Portman would pass away just a few months before the swearing-in, his son would one day cap an incredible career in government by representing Ohio right here in the U.S. Senate.

As ROB explained in his maiden speech, he spent his own formative years in and around a different family business. Bill risked everything in early middle age to strike out and start an equipment business. Joan kept the books. And the way I have heard it, young ROB's own involvement was about as hands-on as it gets.

There wasn't just no nepotism, there was negative nepotism. One summer break, ROB was put to work grinding old paint off the trucks. Even his supervisor called it "the lowest job in the place."

This whole-team effort grew Portman Equipment from 5 jobs created to more than 300. ROB saw firsthand how growing prosperity, if it is done right, can create big win-wins for both small business owners and well-paid workers.

So there were two family businesses in ROB's bloodline: a crossroads where statesman hashed out consequential decisions and a company that created jobs and helped workers support their families. And our distinguished colleague has spent his career continuing both of those things at an even greater scale.

For decades now, from the executive branch to the House to the Senate, ROB's desk and phone line have been the site of history-changing conversations, just like his grandparents' inn, and he has worked to create a national climate where millions more Main Street entrepreneurs like his father can literally lift up workers and communities.

Now, I suspect that from time to time, ROB has felt like law, economics, and policy may not be so different from grinding paint off of rusty trucks; but the gifts and talents that our friend commands have been making an impact—an incredible impact.

Our future colleague was such a top-notch lawyer that he wound up as a young associate White House counsel and then Director of Legislative Affairs for President Bush 41. Then, he was such a whiz at the legislative process that his Ohio neighbors sent him back to Washington as their Congressman. Then, he was such a leader on economic policy that President Bush 43 made ROB U.S. Trade Representative and then turned around and asked him to run the Office of Management and Budget.

So no wonder ROB fit right in and hit the ground running when he came to the Senate in 2011.

Sometimes our friend even fit in a bit too well. See, ROB has a great talent for impersonations. He had spent several Presidential cycles impersonating some of our prior colleagues for Republican tickets' debate prep. ROB's talent became such an open secret that during the 2000 campaign, Joe Lieberman joked he was going to start dispatching ROB to handle campaign stops in his stead.

But the real reasons for ROB's impact are his deep knowledge, his work ethic, and his passion for finding his way through the thick of each consequential issue.

Our friend's focus on growth and prosperity landed him at the center of the most consequential tax reform in a generation. ROB spearheaded the complex overhaul of international tax policy that passed as part of the 2017 tax bill and helped unlock a literal tidal wave of growth, reinvestment, and job creation.

He spent long nights securing huge bipartisan wins on infrastructure policy—not unlike Ohio statesmen 150 years earlier may have discussed internal improvements around a wooden table at the Golden Lamb.

But ROB isn't just a macro-level policy whiz who focuses on topline numbers. As much as ROB is passionate about growing the overall pie, he also

knows that rising tides don't automatically lift every boat. Sometimes Ohioans and Americans face challenges that call for a special champion. So ROB stepped up. He has been one of this body's sharpest early-warning signals on crises like opioid addiction and human trafficking. He has used Congress' investigative powers to craft solutions, and he has built the relationships to make law.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and its sequels have brought hope to families in Ohio and across the country who have battled the onslaught of opioids. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act forced Big Tech, kicking and screaming, to finally crack down on exploitation. And on and on, from international trade to national parks and everything in between.

Even at the tail end of a long session, ROB has been known to linger even longer in the Cloakroom, patiently resolving the last few objections to some final policy he has gotten all the way to the 1-yard line.

But even when you get results at this scale, even when you leave Ohio and our country in a better place, late-night policy vigils eventually lose their luster when you've got an even more appealing home front.

We know ROB loves public service, but we also know that even that passion comes second to his beloved wife and partner Jane and their three kids, Jed, Will, and Sally, who I know ROB considers his proudest accomplishment of all.

For years, Washington's and Ohio's great gain have been their sacrifice. So while the Senate is sorry to lose our friend, we can't be too upset that we now have to repay the favor.

So, ROB, congratulations on your outstanding service.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY PAUL HOPKINS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm another highly qualified judicial nominee: Jeffrey Hopkins, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Judge Hopkins received his A.B. from Bowdoin College and his J.D. from the Ohio State University College of Law. After graduating from law school, Hopkins clerked for Judge Alan E. Norris, both on the Ohio Court of Appeals for the Tenth District and on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

For the last 25 years, Judge Jeffrey Hopkins has served with distinction as a Federal bankruptcy judge in the Southern District of Ohio. In this role, Judge Hopkins has presided over approximately 3,000 cases that have gone to verdict or judgement, and he served as chief judge of the district's bankruptcy court from 2014 to 2021. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Hopkins worked as a litigator in private practice and served as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Ohio, where he became chief of the civil division in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Judge Hopkins has the strong, bipartisan support of his home State Senators, Mr. BROWN and Mr. PORTMAN. Additionally, he received a unanimous rating of “well qualified” from the ABA. I support this highly qualified nominee, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

VOTE ON HOPKINS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hopkins nomination?

Ms. SMITH. 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 Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 384 Ex.]

YEAS—64

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

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Fischer	McConnell
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Hickenlooper
Duckworth	Moran

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Executive Calendar No. 1183, Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Patty Murray, Catherine Cortez Masto, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich.

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 Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 385 Ex.]

YEAS—57

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Hickenlooper
Duckworth	Moran

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2527

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, in the last week, new details have come to light regarding Twitter's top executives' past collusion with political figures to censor speech that they did not want the American people to see. This problem is not limited to Twitter, but this news underscores the problem and the need for congressional action to protect the rights of the American people. Americans deserve to know when their government and Big Tech platforms are trying to manipulate what they can say or what they can read.

Recently published emails among Twitter executives reveal the extent to which the company worked to prevent Americans from seeing a New York Post story, and this was just weeks before the election. The extent of the suppression was breathtaking. Indeed, the Twitter executives locked the Twitter account of the White House Press Secretary who simply mentioned a story that was published in an established American newspaper with one of the largest circulations in the country. Facebook admits that it likewise limited the spread of this story based on a general warning from the FBI about “propaganda.”

Evidence has also emerged that in 2020, Biden and Democrat campaign officials were going so far as to send lists of tweets for their corporate allies to remove—requests that Twitter granted.

This censorship activity has carried over into the Biden administration. In 2021, then-Press Secretary Jen Psaki stated that the government is “in regular touch with social media platforms” and “flagging problematic posts for Facebook that spread [what she called] ‘disinformation’.”

For example, a Facebook official emailed Surgeon General Vivek Murthy stating:

I know our teams met today to better understand the scope of what the White House expects from us on “misinformation” going forward.

A Facebook employee later told the HHS Department that a number of posts had been deleted.

In addition to regularly flagging posts for Twitter and Facebook to take down, the CDC proposed setting up a monthly “misinformation meeting” with Facebook in order to censor American speech.

Additional Freedom of Information Act requests and lawsuits have also revealed improper coordination between