

The 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. 692, Celeste Ann Wallander, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Joe Manchin III, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jeanne Shaheen, Michael F. Bennet, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Mark R. Warner, Richard J. Durbin.

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 Celeste Ann Wallander, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 56 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shelby
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Cassidy	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	Marshall	Sullivan
Coons	McConnell	Tester
Cornyn	Menendez	Thune
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tillis
Cotton	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cramer	Murphy	Warner
Crapo	Murray	Warnock
Daines	Ossoff	Warren
Duckworth	Padilla	Whitehouse
Durbin	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Portman	Young

NAYS—13

Blackburn	Hawley	Moran
Braun	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Ernst	Lee	
Hagerty	Lummis	

NOT VOTING—6

Feinstein	Kelly	Sanders
Graham	Luján	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays 13.

The motion is agreed to.

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. 476, David A. Honey, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Angus S. King, Jr., Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen.

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 David A. Honey, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 93, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Rounds
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sanders
Brown	Johnson	Sasse
Burr	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Capito	King	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Carper	Lankford	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Shelby
Cassidy	Lee	Sinema
Collins	Lummis	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cornyn	Markey	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Tester
Cotton	McConnell	Thune
Cramer	Menendez	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Van Hollen
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fischer	Padilla	Wicker
Gillibrand	Paul	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—3

Blackburn	Hawley	Tuberville
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NOT VOTING—4

Feinstein	Kelly
Graham	Luján

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 93, the nays are 3. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David A. Honey, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this is a pivotal moment for our country and for our economy. Everyone understands we need a full Federal Reserve Board. Once we move the President's nominees and get them confirmed and get them sworn in, it will be the first time in nearly a decade that the Federal Reserve has had a full complement of seven Fed Governors. That is especially important with the upcoming meeting of the Federal Reserve in March because the Fed's job is to tackle inflation and bring prices down for American families.

It is a pretty simple equation. The President nominates. I mean, it didn't happen in the last few years, but the President nominates. We have hearings. We ask some questions. We send them followup questions. The nominees answer these questions. That is how this place works. That is a good thing about this place.

Then we call the vote in committee, and we vote yes or no. The job is vote yes or vote no and hope your side prevails.

And that is what Americans think we should do. Every day Americans get up, go to work, and do their jobs. But Senate Republicans didn't do theirs yesterday.

We had our markup, a meeting to confirm five—just five—nominees for the Federal Reserve. The Chair of the Federal Reserve, appointed originally by President Trump, has been renominated by President Biden. His nomination we were voting on; the Vice Chair, Lael Brainard, who has been on the Fed some time; and then three new Fed slots that have been vacant for some time: Sarah Bloom Raskin, who would be Vice Chair of Supervision, a very important job at the Fed; and the other two, also important jobs, Lisa Cook and Philip Jefferson. All five of these nominations we wanted to vote on yesterday.

Three weeks ago, Senator TOOMEY, the leading Republican on the committee, he and I agreed it would be yesterday; that the vote would be yesterday and we would meet at 2:15 and vote them up or down. And everybody—all 14 of us get a vote.

Well, under Senate rules, if one party doesn't want to play ball, they don't

show up, and we can't do business. So all 12 Democrats showed up. We wanted to vote. We actually took an informal vote, which passed 12 to 0, for essentially all six of them. There was one "no" on one of them. But Republicans didn't show up.

So, as I said, Americans every day get up, go to work, and do their jobs. They expect us to get up every day, go to work, and do our jobs. But Republicans are AWOL in the fight against inflation. If we are going to get serious about inflation, we need a Federal Reserve in place. We need all seven Fed Governors in place, ready to work, ready to debate and make decisions about monetary policy, about interest rates, about jobs, about attacking inflation.

Americans—in Boulder or Denver or Cleveland or Columbus, Americans don't want more political theatrics. They want solutions to bring down their costs. And Republicans, they have been great at coming to the floor and speaking against inflation. They have got their political stunts. But when it really came time to show up and do their job, they just simply didn't show up yesterday to do their jobs. All 12 Democrats were there ready to go. All 12 of us wanted to move forward on these 5 nominations for the Federal Reserve, and under Senate rules we simply couldn't act officially to get this done.

So I know that the ranking member—I understand he doesn't want to do this for whatever reasons. He doesn't like her position on climate change. He doesn't like it that she is going to—the one he is complaining most about, he doesn't like it that she is going to stand up to Wall Street and not roll over for Wall Street every time Wall Street, you know, rattles the Fed's chains. He knows that, and he probably doesn't like that, but he is hanging his hat on some issue that really makes very little sense.

Sarah Bloom Raskin, the person whom he is most complaining about, over a weekend, had 48 hours to answer more than 180 questions from Senator TOOMEY and his colleagues. She answered them all in 48 hours. Then, even outside of the Senate rules, more questions were sent to her. She answered those questions.

So it is really about the fact that far too many people here pay far too much attention to the oil company lobby, but that is really neither here nor there. Everyday Americans, as I say, get up, go to work, do their jobs. Senate Republicans must do theirs.

Pure and simple, Republicans are AWOL in the fight against inflation. We are not going to stop fighting for these nominees. The American people want us to vote. Some people vote yes, some no. I am fine with that. But the American people want us to do our jobs.

When you come here, there aren't three boxes: vote yes, vote no, or check a box that says: I don't want to come to work today; I am not going to vote.

No, they want us to vote. So we will keep fighting for these nominees.

I implore at least 1 Republican of the 12 on the committee to come to our next markup, our next vote, our next executive session so we can vote on these nominees. I want the Federal Reserve, for the first time in a decade, to all be there pulling in the same direction, fighting inflation for our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HEALTH CARE FOR BURN PIT VETERANS ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon here on the Senate floor to mark what will soon be the passage, in just a matter of moments, of a vital veterans bill and to thank my colleagues—both Republicans and Democrats—who came together to support the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act. This is an important bill, and it will remove hurdles for post-9/11 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, in particular, who were exposed to burn pits, so they can receive healthcare from the VA without delay.

This legislation is cosponsored by every single member of the Senate VA Committee, and I commend each of my Senate colleagues in their support for this legislation.

Supporting our veterans has a way of bringing us together, and I am so glad that is true. I am on the floor this afternoon with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and I appreciate how he and my Senate colleagues understand the urgency of this bill and are quickly moving to pass it by unanimous consent.

Post-9/11 veterans are the newest generation of American heroes to suffer from toxic exposure encountered during military service; and passing this legislation marks just a first step—a first step—of a phased approach to solving the complex challenges of caring for those veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic exposures.

For way too long, we have heard from veterans who got sick after exposure to burn pits and need lifesaving care. There is a bipartisan consensus on our committee that this phased approach—delivering healthcare now and reforming the benefit system next—is the most effective pathway forward for toxic exposure veterans and all other veterans as well.

Servicemembers are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We know that. We respect that. We honor that. We must match that level of commitment by crafting thoughtful and effective solutions to make certain

we hold up our end of the bargain and continuously work toward the best outcomes for those who served and sacrificed.

I once joined a roundtable in Wichita, KS, with local members of the Vietnam Veterans of America and was moved by their stories—not only of their own health consequences from Agent Orange but their concerns of how their exposure was affecting the health of their children and grandchildren. From that veteran feedback, I introduced the Toxic Exposure Research Act with Senator BLUMENTHAL, which was signed into law in 2016.

I have since heard from many veterans in Kansas and across the country who are sick and dying from the effects of toxic exposure caused by burn pits. Addressing the needs of veterans exposed to burn pits cannot wait. This legislation could be lifesaving for those exposed or suffering. When our men and women in uniform go into harm's way on our behalf, we owe it to them to take care of them when they come home for whatever injuries are incurred during their service. This is not a question of resources; this is a question of getting reform done the right way.

The Senate soon will act to pass this bill, moving us closer to completing phase 1 of this approach to provide timely, sustainable care to our veterans. I will continue to work with veterans, advocates in the VA, and, importantly, my colleagues on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its chairman, Senator TESTER, of Montana, to make sure we are crafting legislative solutions that are veteran-centric.

I call upon my colleagues in the House to quickly take action and act on this bill and act on our promise as a nation so post-9/11 veterans who are suffering from toxic exposures can get the care they need.

I thank my colleagues on the committee, Chairman TESTER, and our respective staffs for working to craft this feasible path forward. And I want to thank many veteran organizations that have expressed their support for this legislation, including the Disabled Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wounded Warrior Project, Iraq and American Veterans of America, the American Legion, Military Officers Association of America, and Military-Veterans Advocacy.

I am confident that if we continue to work together with the VA and with veterans' groups, we will keep the needs of veterans foremost in our minds and that we can deliver meaningful reforms for the current generation of veterans and for all those who come thereafter.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend, the Senator from Kansas, Senator MORAN, the ranking