

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 79.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 79, Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Raphael G. Warnock, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 66.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 66, Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues.

Charles E. Schumer, John W. Hickenlooper, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Catherine Cortez Masto.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 1, be waived.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

#### REMEMBERING LOWELL SACHNOFF

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in the Jewish faith, there is a concept known as Tikkun olam. It refers to our responsibility to heal the world through good deeds and devotion to others. I want to tell you about a man who devoted all 92 years of his life to healing our world. His name was Lowell Sachnoff. He was a man who found joy in life, the law, and the cause of equal justice for all. And he brought that joy to all of us who were lucky to count him as a friend.

Lowell passed away last month, peacefully, in his home in Evanston, IL. And saddened as I am by his loss, I am—above all—grateful that I got to know him. Lowell was a model of kindness, curiosity, and integrity. And in the words of his wife Fay, he was “absolutely fearless when it came to representing the downtrodden, ignored, and abused.” Our world is a better place because of his lifetime of service.

Lowell's commitment to serving others began where he was born and raised: on Maxwell Street in Chicago. He grew up in a community of hardworking, Jewish immigrants during the Depression. And even from a young age, Lowell had a hunger for healing our broken world. It is only fitting—Lowell was raised by a family whose own world had been shattered by hate and persecution. His parents and grandparents were forced to flee their

ancestral homeland of Ukraine because of pogroms targeting Jews.

As a child, Lowell's grandparents would tell him stories about those dark days in Ukraine, about the relatives and friends who were tortured and murdered by the Russian regime, and the terrors of life in a “lawless society.” It was these conversations around the Sachnoff dinner table that inspired Lowell to become a lawyer—and to wield the law as an instrument for justice.

As a student at Chicago's Senn High School, Lowell excelled in and outside of the classroom. He was a star on the swim team—and was even offered a full academic scholarship at Harvard and, later, Harvard Law. But before beginning his legal career, Lowell decided to first serve his country. He enlisted in the military and served as a lieutenant commander and naval intelligence officer during the Korean war. It was an experience that led to Lowell discovering one of his many lifelong passions: the Russian language. At first, he learned Russian as part of his intelligence responsibilities—but he stuck with it.

In fact, I remember a conversation we had about 10 years ago. Lowell told me he was still practicing Russian—60 years later—through the online education platform Coursera. It is just one example of his boundless love for learning and discovery. And Lowell's curiosity—like his commitment to equal justice—only grew as the years went on.

After serving in the military, Lowell brought his fight for justice home. He graduated from Harvard Law, with honors, and soon emerged as a legal legend and a civil rights icon. Lowell always understood that the cause of civil rights and human rights never comes to a final verdict. Those dedicated to freedom and fairness forge new contests and take on new battles every day.

And for Lowell, the litany of causes began in the 1960s. In his pursuit of justice, he took on cases that most lawyers would never touch. One of them was a lawsuit against the Chicago Police officers who murdered two members of the Black Panther Party while they slept. One of the victims was Fred Hampton. It was the height of the civil rights movement, and tensions were even higher. But true to his fearless nature, Lowell took on the case—and won.

A few years later, Lowell scored another victory for justice. He won a jury verdict regarding the routine, unlawful strip-searching of women by Chicago Police. Years after that, he won another historic verdict protecting the rights of women seeking reproductive healthcare. Time and again, Lowell fought for equality in every form—racial, gender, economic, you name it. He made no exceptions—because he was on a mission to heal the world for everyone.

In 1981, Lowell's firm Sachnoff & Weaver represented a transgender pilot

who had been fired because of her gender identity. Today, nearly 40 years later, our Nation still has a long way to go in protecting the rights of transgender Americans. But with that case, Lowell helped introduce a legal rationale for enshrining transgender rights into the Civil Rights Act—which happened decades later.

During our many years of friendship, Lowell never once called me on behalf of a paying client. Others would speak for them. The one time Lowell did call me about a case, it involved a man who had no voice in our system of justice. He was an accused terrorist who had been imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay for 15 years with no formal charge and no hope for a trial. Many considered the case a lost cause. Others considered it too controversial to touch. But Lowell never gave up. He believed that, even though the road to justice may be long, he had a responsibility to reach the end of it. So he pushed onward, for years, with a group of lawyers who shared his belief that Guantanamo was a “stain on our justice system.”

Lowell even traveled to Guantanamo Bay six times, when he was in his 80s, to meet with detainees. And eventually, he and his cocounsel negotiated the release of four men who had been held captive for years. Lowell poured his whole heart into the case, as he did with every case. When he saw injustice, in any form, he couldn't help but think of his family who fled Ukraine. And he couldn't help but act.

Really, there is a simple explanation for Lowell's long record of legal victories: He not only had a big, generous heart—but a big, sharp mind to match. In the words of the head of the Illinois ACLU, Colleen Connell, Lowell was a “lawyer's lawyer . . . you could only be impressed [by] how he was able to conceptualize and bring a legal argument to life.”

And Lowell shared his wisdom and love for the law with everyone who worked with him. Perhaps his favorite part of leading Sachnoff & Weaver was mentoring younger litigators. He would take them under his wing and share whatever legal wisdom he could. These young lawyers became known as Lowell's “ducklings,” a nickname that has stuck even to this day, when said ducklings are now in their 60s and 70s.

It was while working at Sachnoff & Weaver that Lowell joined forces with his most powerful ally in the fight for justice: his wife Fay Clayton. They met while working as lawyers in the same department, and things remained strictly professional for a few years. But soon enough, the sparks flew. They fell in love and became quite the power couple, working together to build a more equitable system of justice for everyone.

Fay was captivated by the same qualities that so many of Lowell's friends loved: his zeal for life, learning, and creative expression. When they first started dating, Lowell would even surprise Fay with poems he had writ-

ten for her. And his gift for writing was another of Lowell's passions that only grew as the years went on.

Lowell and Fay were true believers in the idea that, no matter how busy life becomes, we should always find time to engage with our lifelong passions and chase new adventures. And together, that is exactly what they did—from scuba diving off the coast of Mexico, to growing vegetables, baking challah, going to jazz and classical music concerts, and swimming.

Of course, nothing made the two of them happier than sharing their love for adventure with the children and grandchildren. As one example, Lowell and Fay made a promise to each one of his grandkids: Pick any place in the world you want to go, and we will take you. And they made good on that promise, traveling to Australia, Kenya, Peru, Greece, and Croatia. It was a true family world tour.

And in honor of Lowell's lifelong love for learning, his children have paid a fitting, final tribute. They created a writing prize, named in Lowell's honor, at his alma mater Senn High School. It is a gift that will support a new generation of changemakers, so they can follow Lowell's footsteps in the fight for justice.

I mentioned Lowell's love for poetry. One of his favorite poets was William Butler Yeats. Yeats once observed, “The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.” Lowell lived his life sharpening and fine-tuning his senses to discover the world's magic things. He did it through the law, through his relationships, and through his voracious appetite for knowledge. And by devoting his life to healing our world, he uplifted countless others in their journey to discover those magic things. He set an example we would be wise to follow. The world has lost a good man.

Loretta and I join Fay; Lowell's children Scott, Marc, and Kate; his stepchildren Kim and Suzanne; his grandkids Allie, Sam, Joel, Monica, and Sasha; and his great-granddaughter Sofia in mourning his loss. We miss him dearly. And we send our love to you all.

#### HONORING STAFF SERGEANT TAYLOR MITCHELL

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, today, I want to honor U.S. Army SSG Taylor Mitchell who tragically lost his life last month in a Blackhawk training exercise at the young age of 30.

Family members describe Sergeant Mitchell as an “all-American man” with a positive outlook, a love of flying, and a desire to serve—all of which prompted him to enlist in the U.S. Army in 2014. After completing training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, he was assigned to the 2nd Calvary Regiment in Vilseck, Germany, as a healthcare specialist. Upon meeting requirements to become a flight para-

medic, he joined the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Riley, KS, as a flight paramedic noncommissioned officer. In November 2020, he transitioned to the 101st Airborne Division of Combat Aviation Brigade, continuing this role until the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife Hayli Jo; his parents Jay and Darlene; brothers Garrett, BJ, and Joseph; grandmother Patricia Scoper; and six nieces and nephews.

Alabama is grateful for Sergeant Mitchell's willingness to serve in our Nation's military, and we mourn the tragedy of a life taken too soon. His love of country and devotion to duty are an inspiration. We will make sure that his legacy is never forgotten.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRAD WATTS

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, over the years, I have taken a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of my staff as they depart and advance their professional development. One of the most capable staffers I have had the honor of working with is Brad Watts, who served as my chief counsel for more than 4 years.

Brad is truly one of a kind. He is tenacious, tireless, and objectively brilliant. He has earned a reputation for being someone you want on your team advocating on your behalf because he will fight for you tooth and nail and leave nothing on the table. And he has earned a reputation for being someone you don't want to see on your opposing team because he is one tough negotiator who can take you to hell and back.

Brad became my chief counsel shortly before the 116th Congress, which is when I first became chairman of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee. I don't think Brad came in knowing much or anything about intellectual property, which is regarded as one of the most difficult areas of law for even the most intelligent lawyers to pick up.

Not only did Brad pick it up, he excelled at it. Our subcommittee was the most active one on the Senate Judiciary Committee during the 116th Congress as we explored ways to improve and modernize our intellectual property system.

Perhaps most notably, we held a historic 3-day sprint of hearings during which we heard from 45 different witnesses about the broken state of patent eligibility. Only someone as hard-working as Brad could have made that happen.

Brad was also instrumental in negotiating, writing, and passing some of the most consequential bipartisan legislation in generations during the 117th Congress, addressing issues long considered to be “third rails” in American politics.

One example was the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Brad was masterful throughout the negotiation process as Senators and their staff worked