

down to support efforts to put in place the Ambassadors we need to fight back against our adversaries around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled roll-call votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ALICE SANGER AND FLAG DAY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I often speak of Hoosiers whose service, patriotism, and sacrifice capture the spirit we celebrate on civic holidays. For Flag Day, however, I rise to share the story of a Hoosier who didn't merely embody the occasion. She helped establish it, and she made history too.

Alice Sanger played such an important part in Benjamin Harrison's Presidential campaign in 1888 as a stenographer that he made her an important part of his Presidential staff. So Alice left her home in Indianapolis for Washington, DC, to become the first woman ever to serve on a President's staff.

This historic distinction doesn't quite capture the breadth of Alice's service to the President and to our Nation. Neither did her title of "clerk" or contemporary reporters' descriptions of her, which often dwelled on her looks and her clothes.

So let me share with you what this clerk did in the White House. It is quite remarkable.

A renaissance woman who was skilled with a paintbrush and had an ear for music, Alice could take dictation at 200 words a minute without a single misspelling.

She had a discretion seldom seen in Washington—now or then—and she was known as a "jewel of secrecy" in the White House.

Not only did she type President Harrison's annual address to Congress, she was given sole responsibility of safekeeping it until it was sent here to the Capitol.

She personally read through all of the President's and First Lady Caroline Harrison's correspondence, and she answered much of it in her own hand. During the late 19th century, no woman's signature was better known in America than Alice's.

In 1893, after losing his bid for reelection, Harrison left the White House but Alice remained. You see, she was so essential to the executive branch's function that the new President, Grover Cleveland, from a different political party, asked her to stay on.

In 1894, she moved to the Post Office Department, which was then a significant Cabinet-level Agency. She was no less indispensable in that capacity. For decades, she managed budgets and advertising. She kept track of regulations and postal laws, and she assembled the 700-page directive that guided the operations of every post office in America.

She was a masterful organizer. She planned war bond drives, donations to the Red Cross, and holiday celebrations, including the one we mark today.

Now, the idea of commemorating the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress created our national banner was not her own. Celebrations of the American flag were staged periodically around the country, dating back to the 1860s. But in 1908, Alice, as part of her responsibilities at the post office, planned and staged a grand celebration for Flag Day.

The sound of bands and distinguished speakers lifted out of the Old Post Office building's courtyard, where a giant American flag hung. In the years that followed, other government departments joined in the celebration with their own Flag Day festivities, in large part due to Alice's efforts. States followed suit, many with input from Alice herself, who advised local post offices on appropriate celebrations.

Presidents Wilson and Coolidge recognized Flag Day with proclamations, and, in 1949, the 81st Congress passed and Harry Truman signed legislation formally establishing its observance.

You see, there is some harmony between Alice's career and her work to promote Flag Day. When we look up at the Stars and Stripes, we catch America's reflection. It is a symbol of our ideals, after all. Wherever it waves, on battlefields where we have defended it, alongside the graves of those who have died for it, in front of the places where its democracy lives—courthouses in our towns and statehouses in our cities, the dome under which we meet, and from the homes across the Republic for which it stands—our flag represents the promise of freedom and self-government; that any man or woman can live their life in pursuit of happiness. But it also is a reminder that the work of honoring those ideals goes on.

It is fitting then that, on Flag Day, we remember Indiana's Alice Sanger. This Hoosier served her country so faithfully in an era where pathways for women to do so were so few.

So, on Flag Day, we raise a pair of salutes: one to Old Glory, forever may she fly; and a second to the trailblazing spirit of Americans like Alice, long may it live.

I yield the floor.

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 bill 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. 41, P. Casey Pitts, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret

Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow.

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 P. Casey Pitts, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called roll.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoehn	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 46.

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 bill 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. 26, Dale E. Ho, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Edward J. Markey, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Raphael G. Warnock, Brian Schatz, Peter Welch, Jack Reed.

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 Dale E. Ho, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 160 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Dale E. Ho, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BROADBAND

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise to talk about something that is unseen but really impacts every aspect of our daily lives, something that has major implications on the future of my State and many rural States just like the Presiding Officer's rural areas, and that is reliable broadband connection and the implementation of service in our unserved and underserved areas.

Internet connection is something that we often take for granted, certainly in the DC area we do—especially in our cities and urban communities. It is a mainstay of so many facets of our life.

So just think about it. We rely on internet connection for our communication with our family and friends, our emergency services, obtaining information. I have already done that about five times today, getting some additional information—banking, conducting business, and as we experienced firsthand during the pandemic, essential aspects of our workforce participation, the education of our children, and I would add in healthcare here. Even as we transitioned back to in-person work and school post-pandemic, these capabilities are so essential and greatly beneficial.

In West Virginia, our State is the only State entirely encompassed by Appalachia, and we are recognized across the world for our mountainous terrain. So we love our mountains in West Virginia, but our topography in West Virginia has dealt us a challenging hand when it comes to adopting needed advancements to connect people to the internet.

So we know one thing: It is expensive, and it is a lot easier said than done. But this lack of broadband connectivity and reliability is one of the biggest concerns that I hear every time I travel in the State. That is because our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our health clinics, our churches, our businesses, if they lack the appropriate level of connectivity or lack it entirely, you are behind. You are behind. You are not participating. You can't get the help that you need. You can't communicate the way you want to. And in a lot of cases, you are not going to live in a place that doesn't have connectivity. So this is something that must change and something that I am committed to changing.

So one of my first initiatives as a U.S. Senator was launching my Capito Connect Plan to help bridge this digital divide that we see in the country. The plan served as a roadmap for bringing affordable, high-speed internet connection and access to our homes, our businesses, and our classrooms throughout the State. Since launching this initiative, we have made a lot of progress—we have—connecting our communities in our State. We have had a lot of conversation, and, really, we have kind of bridged a lot of what we thought would be the impossible.

We have expanded cellular service in Paw Paw, a very remote area, and in

Lincoln County, a very rural area, by initiating searches for providers. We have secured millions of dollars in broadband funding investments through the USDA programs, and we have hosted multiple visits with our FCC officials to bring attention to our State's broadband needs.

Increasing rural broadband funding has been a focus of the Appalachian Regional Commission. I have also supported major broadband builds like Zayo's announcement to connect a fiber optic network right through the North Central part of our State. We have also been receiving critical feedback from listening sessions in all 55 counties, including soliciting all kinds of data back from folks in West Virginia onto our website. Also, when we were leading efforts to craft the bipartisan infrastructure law, I made sure, along with many others, that this was included because this is an essential part of our infrastructure. And we are making a difference.

So we have made a lot of advances. We have. But there is still much more work to accomplish. Now is not the time to look back and see what we didn't do and how maybe we could have done it better. Now is the time to look forward and see where we are and where we are going to be. So we are at a really critical moment here and one we must take advantage of.

We have all prioritized funding and provided funding for broadband in many different pieces of legislation. We have done that every year in appropriations—and I am on appropriations—and I personally have made sure that we have included this not just in the bipartisan infrastructure package.

So, on Monday, I was back home in West Virginia and got the chance to speak to some of the greatest young men and women in our State at West Virginia Girls State and West Virginia Boys State. It is clear in talking to some of them that our best and brightest are unlikely to stay in our State if they don't have this reliable broadband. It just doesn't make sense. The lack of internet connectivity will impact how they join the workforce, how they further their education or perform the tasks of everyday living that have become so dependent on broadband.

So Congress has a much needed and very important role to play here, and I am confident in our ability to rise to this occasion in the face of this challenge.

But in order to distribute the unprecedented funding that is coming from the bipartisan infrastructure law to the communities and States that need it, we have got to have accurate data.

This has been a flaw in the system. That is why NTIA and FCC have been tasked with developing the National Broadband Map, to determine where the unserved and the underserved communities were located.

Why is that important? Because much of the funding, as it should be, is