

of India. Next week, we will be honored to have him address a joint meeting of Congress underscoring the significance of the relationship between the United States and India.

The bond between India and the United States is not just an alliance, it is a strategic and global partnership. Our two nations' relationship is built on the strong foundation of shared values—democracy, freedom, and respect for the rule of law.

India and the United States have long recognized the power of collaboration and fostering peace, prosperity, and global stability. United States-India diplomatic relations have only grown since India gained its independence 75 years ago.

In the face of global challenges ranging from education to energy to agriculture and health, Prime Minister Modi has worked with the United States to address these issues, and continues to work toward solutions that benefit not just our countries but the entire world.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Washington, DC, is an occasion to celebrate that progress and to reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen this vital partnership.

I have had the opportunity to learn more about this partnership from Dr. Kulkarni, who is the Indian Consulate General in Atlanta, and a friend of mine. And she is also a friend of my State director, Umesh Sanjanwala.

So Prime Minister Modi's visit is an opportunity to deepen our collaboration in areas such as trade, defense, technology, and healthcare, which will shape the future trajectory of our nations.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in extending a warm welcome to the Prime Minister as he visits our great Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time—and I will be making a unanimous consent request in regards to the superintendent of U.S. Naval Academy, but I first want to acknowledge my responsibilities on behalf of this body.

You see, I serve on the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy. I was selected to be one of the Senate representatives on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors. We are extremely proud of what that academy has produced, and today it is producing the next generation of military leaders. It is consistently ranked as one of the top colleges in the United States, and it should be for training the next generation of leaders for our military.

I will just give you one example. The U.S. Naval Academy is prepared to deal with the challenges of AI and cyber security. It has new facilities there and is training experts to help defend our national security in that regard.

I also want to acknowledge on behalf of the Board of Visitors Admiral Buck, the current superintendent, who is retiring. He has done an incredible service to our Nation as the superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy and now has completed 40 years of service to this country.

Rear Admiral Yvette Davids is exceptionally qualified to be the next superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. Admiral Davids is a career professional military officer who has sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution and our country. She has consistently put service before self and the Constitution before politics.

Admiral Davids graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 with a B.S. in oceanography and was commissioned as an ensign. She later received an M.A. in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in 2002 and an M.S. in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2012.

She has had a distinguished career at sea, highlighted by commanding multiple U.S. warships as well as a carrier strike group. Ashore, she has served in increasing roles of importance, including as a senior military adviser at the State Department and as the chief of staff at U.S. Southern Command.

Admiral Davids has led men and women in combat, and her extensive experience will be vital to leading our next generation of officers at the Naval Academy.

Admiral Davids' confirmation as the next superintendent will be the culmination of a 34-year career dedicated to defending our country, and it will be historic, as she will become the first woman to lead the Naval Academy.

The incoming class of 2027 reports to the Naval Academy for induction on June 29, just a few days from now, and the fall semester begins on August 24. Admiral Davids should be confirmed as superintendent without delay in order to complete the turnover with the ongoing superintendent and prepare for the fall semester.

The last time the Naval Academy superintendent did not have a summer change of command was over 59 years ago. It occurred in 1964 when the incumbent superintendent had a heart attack that resulted in early retirement.

The Senate needs to confirm the promotion of Rear Admiral Davids now. The U.S. Naval Academy superintendent is charged with the moral, mental, and physical development of our 4,500 U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen across four classes who represent roughly one-third of the naval officers we commission each fiscal year. The position provides direct oversight to the commandant of midshipmen, who serves as the dean of students and supervises all military and professional development training of the brigade of midshipmen, and direct oversight to the civilian academic dean, who manages the academic pro-

grams and student facilities at the U.S. Naval Academy.

The superintendent is the public face of a premier academic institution and consistently hosts government officials, international symposiums, and liaises directly with alumni and distinguished Members of Congress on all matters pertinent to the institution.

If Rear Admiral Davids is not confirmed, it would force potential courses of action that are not in the best interests of the institution. This could include having the O-6 commandant of midshipmen act as superintendent or temporarily assigning another flag officer to act as superintendent. Neither of these options provides the continuity and leadership and seniority required to oversee a world-class academic institution. The other option could be to require an involuntary extension of the current superintendent of the academy, who has already selflessly served his country for over 40 years.

I think we all recognize that the United States Naval Academy is a unique institution. It provides us the trained leadership for future generations in our military. It is an academic institution that needs the full-time attention of a CEO to manage all the aspects that go on at the Naval Academy. We need to have that person in place before the beginning of this academic year, which is just a few days off.

Delaying this promotion will adversely affect the morale and readiness of the Naval Academy and beyond. Delaying this promotion is unfair to the young men and women already at or entering the Naval Academy who have signed up to put themselves in harm's way to serve our Nation in uniform. Delaying this promotion is a gratuitous, self-inflicted wound to our national security.

So, Mr. President, I am going to make this unanimous consent request. I do that, as I said earlier, with my experience on the Board of Visitors representing this institution, charged with doing everything we can to make sure we are as supportive as possible to our men and women who wear the uniform of this Nation and to those attending the U.S. Naval Academy.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 192, Rear Admiral Yvette Anne Davids, to be vice admiral; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object, this is the ninth time that my colleagues on the left have come to the floor to try to break my

hold on Department of Defense nominees. This is the ninth time I am coming forward to keep my word. Since the last time we did this, nothing has changed, and so my hold will remain in place.

I want to be clear about this because my Democratic colleagues have been spreading a little bit of disinformation. I am not blocking anyone from getting confirmed. I am not blocking a single vote. I am only blocking unanimous consent. If Democrats want to vote on these nominees one at a time, I am all for it and will probably vote for them.

I understand that Senator CARDIN is a strong supporter of this nominee. I am a strong supporter of the Naval Academy. I have several relatives who have gone to the Naval Academy. It is possible that when these come up, I will vote on all of them. But, so far—let me just respond to some of the false claims that have been made against me in the press and even on this floor in the last week or so.

Yesterday, the White House Press Secretary was asked why they haven't reached out to me at all from the White House. She said:

I do not know when the last time is that [the White House] has talked to the Senator.

I will tell you when the last time was—never. The White House has not reached out to me once in 4 months. No one has contacted me. There has not been one conversation about a path forward.

I have spoken to Secretary Austin, outside of Armed Services hearings, exactly once in the last 2 years. That was a 10-minute phone call 3 months ago. He made absolutely no effort to find a compromise in our situation.

I have never once heard from Chairman REED on this issue, of the Armed Services Committee—absolutely no discussion regarding my concerns. Instead, Senator REED has attacked me on this floor.

I have never once heard from Senator SCHUMER. Instead, Senator SCHUMER has attacked me six or seven times on this floor in his seat.

Many of the claims made about me have been completely false.

This is no way to negotiate with a colleague. I don't understand it—especially not in this body, the United States Senate. Frankly, this kind of behavior just steels my resolve. The more false claims my colleagues on the left make about me, the more it makes me inclined to just keep my hold in place.

I have already laid out the reasons why these claims do not add up. I don't need to repeat them all as we speak. We don't need to waste time. But I would note that yesterday a news story reported correctly that these military positions are being fulfilled by acting officials. These jobs are being done as we speak. They are not empty. Four months into this situation, it is obvious that people are doing the job. It is not affecting our readiness. Anyone who says otherwise is wrong.

So let me just say this one more time because I keep getting asked the same question over and over again. I will keep my hold until the Pentagon follows the law or Congress changes the law. That is the way we do it here in the Senate.

A show vote in committee is not good enough. We can do that all we want, but it is not going to make any difference. An amendment that gets stripped out on the floor by Senator SCHUMER is not good enough. What I have said from the beginning is either follow the law or change it. Follow the law we have made in this body or change the law.

The burden is not on me. It is not on me to pass this legislation. This is an illegal policy that they changed to. So let's in this body discuss it and go one way or the other. The burden is on the administration to stop breaking the law, and that is exactly what is going on here.

There are two conditions that would get me to stop this and drop this hold, and I think everybody knows those conditions.

So because of that, Mr. President, I object.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, obviously I am deeply disappointed by the objection being heard here. I really feel compelled to explain one factor of my colleague's comments.

We don't want the military involved in politics. We do everything we can to keep them insulated from the internal politics of the Congress, the Senate and the House, and that is exactly what my colleague is doing by this hold.

We are responsible to make sure that we support our men and women in harm's way. Having the military academies properly managed is part of our responsibility so that they have the tools they need to defend our Nation.

One last point that was mentioned by my colleague about having up-or-down votes on these nominations, that he would not hold that up. Well, he is. He is requiring the break of a filibuster. What he is suggesting is that he is not letting us have an up-or-down vote. That is what my unanimous consent request would have allowed. My unanimous consent request would have allowed us to have an up-or-down vote on the nomination so we don't have to go through a cloture motion, which is exactly what my colleague is suggesting we need to go through, in order to vote on hundreds of these promotions within the military; that if we followed the course he is suggesting, those plebes who are entering this month at the Naval Academy will be in their second year before we get around to voting on that nomination.

So for all those reasons, I regret that we are playing politics with our military and affecting our ability to defend our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 30.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 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. 30, Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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

TAX CONVENTION WITH CHILE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 1, Treaty Document 112-8.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The treaty will be stated.