

School, to clean up Coldwater Creek. All we get is finger-pointing and blame-shifting. The Department of Energy says it is the Army Corps' fault. The Army Corps says it is the Department of Energy's fault. Heck, for the recent news reports, the Department of Energy wouldn't even comment. They referred the reporter to the Department of Justice. I mean, what is next?

Here is what needs to happen next. It is time for this body to act. In the past, when we have asked citizens—members of this Nation—when we asked them to bear unique burdens, when we have put them in harm's way, we have said: If you will serve your country in this way, we will stand with you. That is essentially what the people of St. Louis have been asked to do.

The Manhattan Project was a national project for war. The people of St. Louis have borne the burden of it. It is time for the government to make it right.

What should happen is this. The Federal Government should pay medical bills for any single resident who has contracted cancer or an autoimmune virus or genetic disorder because of exposure to radioactive contamination. The Federal Government needs to act.

I will introduce legislation that will create a fund to make the people of St. Louis whole. Sadly, for some, it is too late. This has been going on for decades and too many members of our community have already been lost to cancer, to disease, to the hazards that were imposed on them by their government without their knowledge and without their consent. But that is no reason not to act now. We should act and act swiftly to provide remediation, to provide support for every member of this community who has suffered because of the actions of the Federal Government. We have done it in the past. We have done it for our veterans. We have done it for other folks who have been negatively impacted by the nuclear program dating back to the forties. We should do it now in the city and region of St. Louis. I will introduce legislation that will provide this support, that will provide this justice to the people of St. Louis.

I will close by saying this. It is justice that we are talking about. This is not a handout to the people of St. Louis. They are not asking for a giveaway. They are asking for some basic fairness. When their government imposes on them disease and disaster because of nuclear contamination, the least their government can do is to make it right. And I will come to this floor as long as it takes until we make it right for the men and women and children of St. Louis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Kotagal nomination, all

postcloture time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 13; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Uhlmann nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired and the vote on the confirmation be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader; further, that following the cloture vote on the Uhlmann nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bloomekatz nomination.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of the Senate, the 4 p.m. votes will be the last votes of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak for 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

REMEMBERING LOWELL PALMER WEICKER, JR.

Mr. MURPHY. I come to the floor to talk about one of the greatest citizens, leaders, and public servants in the history of my State, Lowell Palmer Weicker, Jr., who died June 28.

We held services for him in Greenwich on Monday, and I want to celebrate him for a moment with my colleagues, because they don't make them like Lowell Weicker any longer.

Lowell Weicker served virtually every capacity you could helping to lead our State. He was a first selectman. He was a State representative. He was a Congressman. He was a Senator here in this Chamber, and he was a Governor. But throughout his long, storied tenure as an elected official—for most of that time a Republican, as Governor an Independent—he led a life that was led by one simple axiom: Do what is right.

He put his principles, his convictions, and what he thought was right for our State above every other political consideration—certainly above party. He bucked his party here over and over and over again. His autobiography was titled "Maverick." But he also made decisions for the betterment of the State that ran directly contrary to his own political interests. And I will talk about the most famous of those decisions, those calls that he made, in a moment, when he was Governor.

I got to know Lowell Weicker only in the last decade of his life, and I am sorry for that because he played a very big role in my decision to pursue public service as a vocation.

Lowell Weicker was born in Paris. He was raised on Park Avenue in Manhattan and Oyster Bay on Long Island. He followed his father's footsteps through prep school, to college at Yale. He graduated Yale in 1953, University of

Virginia Law School in 1958. He served 2 years in the Army as an artillery officer.

He began his political career as a local representative serving his town of Greenwich. He was a State representative, and then he was first selectman. He ran first for Congress in 1968. He unseated a three-term Democrat representing Fairfield County. And from that first race, you could see that Lowell Weicker was going to be a different kind of political leader.

He ran to the left of his Democratic opponent on the issue of Vietnam. He ran for Congress as a Republican who opposed President Nixon's war. And as Congressman, he staked out a series of contrary positions to his party, earning him, early on, the reputation of someone who was just going to do what he thought was right over and over and over. Later in life, he said: There is going to be this crucial moment in your career. The question is whether you mature or whether you are going to be an ideologue. Lowell Weicker was never an ideologue. And there is no question of whether he matured. He was proud of the fact that he changed his stance on issues over the course of his career.

When he got to Congress, he supported prayer in schools. He ended up as a Senator, here, successfully leading the opposition to President Reagan's push for a constitutional amendment to allow organized prayer in public schools. He changed. He matured. He didn't run from that. He was proud of it.

In the Senate, he is probably best known to be the first Republican to call for President Nixon's resignation. Speaking about his Republican Party that he was so proud of, he said:

Let me [be] clear, because I have got to have my partisan moment, Republicans do not cover up; Republicans do not go ahead and threaten; Republicans do not go ahead and commit illegal acts; and, God knows, Republicans don't view their fellow Americans as enemies to be harassed. . . . I can assure you, this Republican and those I serve with, look upon all Americans as human beings to be loved and won.

In 1981, he was the only Republican to vote against President Reagan's first budget. As I mentioned, he fought hard against that constitutional amendment to allow organized prayer in schools because he came to believe very deeply in the separation of church and State. But maybe what defines Lowell Weicker's career in the Senate, more than Watergate, was his ability to see the future. He always talked about the fact that he was living for the future.

When standing up for people living with HIV and AIDS was controversial, Lowell Weicker was leading the fight on the Senate floor to put early money into AIDS research. When it wasn't a foregone conclusion that we would make sure that people with disabilities had access to buildings in this country, Lowell Weicker wrote the Americans with Disabilities Act. It passed just

after he left the Senate, but he was the originator of that legislation.

Today, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE reminds us of our obligation to our oceans. Before anybody else was talking about the oceans, it was Lowell Weicker down here talking about the need to invest in oceans and oceans' research.

But I remember Lowell Weicker when he became Governor. Lowell Weicker ran as an Independent for Governor. He won a three-way race. And he was facing a State crisis, a fiscal crisis of epic proportions. He didn't like the idea of a State income tax. He, frankly, opposed the idea earlier in his career. But he surveyed every other option necessary to rescue Connecticut from its political and fiscal crisis, and he judged that an income tax was the only path forward.

And so he took a step that he knew would mean that he could only serve one term in office. He was a young man when he became Governor. He was in his late fifties or early sixties, but he stood up and said the only way for Connecticut to be fiscally sound going into the future is to have an income tax. He fought both Republicans and Democrats to get that done, and he got it done.

I was 17 years old at the time when Lowell Weicker became Governor and made that proposal. I don't think I had any thoughts on whether an income tax was the right or the wrong thing, but what I saw, for the first time, was a political leader standing up and doing what they thought was right, even though they knew it was unpopular, even though he knew it was likely going to be the end of his political career. And I was mesmerized. I was mesmerized by this act of political courage, by this act of political statesmanship, and it was one of the early examples that convinced me that there was honor in public service.

And so I am deeply grateful to the example that Lowell Weicker set for all of us, during his time in the Senate, the first Republican to call for Nixon's resignation, to the time as Governor, where he set the State on a course of fiscal sanity.

During those income tax debates, thousands of people would show up at the capitol. In fact, one day 40,000 people showed up at the State capitol. They hung Governor Lowell Weicker in effigy. He didn't sit in his office. He walked into the crowd to try to reason and negotiate with them. It didn't last long. He was pelted with cans and bottles of sodas. He had to be hustled out of the crowd as quickly as he went in, but it caused Howard Baker, one of his great friends in the Senate, to say: Lowell Weicker, "[t]hat is the only man I ever met who would strike a match to look into a gas tank."

It has been popular to say, over the last few days as we have been eulogizing Lowell Weicker, that he belonged to a different era in which you could just be for what you thought was right and not worry about the political

consequences. But I think that is a copout, and I think my friend Lowell would say that is a copout. Doing the right thing should be timeless. Putting country over party should be timeless.

There is no reason why all of us can't learn a little bit about Governor Senator Lowell Weicker's record upon his passing and use him as a model for how we act as public servants as well.

Lowell Weicker died last week at age 92, one of the most consequential people in Connecticut's history, and I choose to remember Lowell Weicker and the example he set as timeless.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MYONG JIN JOUN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Myong Jin Joun to the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Judge Joun is a long-serving State court judge with extensive experience as a litigator. And with his confirmation, this Senate will take another important step forward in building a Federal judiciary that reflects the personal and professional diversity of America and the legal profession.

Born in South Korea, Judge Joun received his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 1999. Prior to law school, he served for 6 years in the U.S. Army Massachusetts National Guard as an E-4 specialist. He even served throughout his undergraduate studies at the University of Massachusetts, where he earned a B.A. and graduated magna cum laude. After earning his law degree, Judge Joun began his legal career at a civil rights law firm, where he worked for 6 years before starting his own firm in 2007. During his 15 years in practice, Judge Joun tried approximately 20 cases to verdict, including 17 jury trials. In 2014, Judge Joun was appointed as associate justice of the Boston Municipal Court. Over the past 8 years, he has presided over approximately 140 trials, including 98 jury trials, for both criminal and civil matters. Importantly, if confirmed, Judge Joun would make history as the first Asian-American man and first Korean American to serve on the District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

With his extensive trial experience on and off the bench, Judge Joun will make an excellent addition to the district court. He enjoys the strong support of Senators WARREN and MARKEY. And the American Bar Association has unanimously rated him "well qualified" to serve on the District of Massachusetts.

I support this outstanding nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

VOTE ON JOUN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Joun nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. 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 Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
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	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—2

Sanders
Welch

The nomination was confirmed. (Mr. MURPHY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). 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 Senate's action.

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. 114, Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.