

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.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027, 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.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 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—50

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	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President and Madam Vice President, I want to note that this is a history-making moment for the United States Senate.

Today, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS matches the record for the most tie-breaking votes ever passed in the United States by a Vice President.

The Constitution says that “the Vice President Of The United States shall be the President of the Senate,” and with that comes the immense burden of casting votes whenever this Chamber is evenly split.

When it has mattered most, Vice President HARRIS has provided the decisive vote on some of the most historic bills of modern times, from the American Rescue Plan to the Inflation Reduction Act, to so many Federal judges who now preside and provide balance on the Federal bench. She has carried out her duties with supreme excellence, and today, all of us—all of us—thank her for making the work of the Senate possible.

We also thank Vice President HARRIS for doing all this work despite all the

other demands she faces as the Nation’s Vice President, from leading the charge on protecting freedom of choice to speaking out on criminal justice reform and gun safety, to pushing for climate justice. Our Nation is stronger, fairer, and more prosperous because of the work of the Vice President.

So, Madam Vice President, on this historic day, thank you. Thank you for your leadership and your service to this institution and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

VERMONT FLOODS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I would like to address the Senate.

Today was an inspiring day but also a sad day. Vermont, in the past few days, has suffered a severe flood from a storm that in some places dropped 9 inches of rain. It tumbled down off the mountains into our streams, flooded those streams and rivers, and overflowed into our villages and some of our major cities.

To my right, we are looking at a depiction of downtown Montpelier, the capital of Vermont. Here, we are seeing damage in what is called the Northeast Kingdom to infrastructure. There are scenes like this everywhere.

Senator SANDERS, Congresswoman BALINT, and the entire Vermont delegation with me toured Vermont with the Governor of Vermont, Phil Scott, and with our FEMA Administrator, Deanne Criswell. It was an inspiring day because we saw firsthand the extraordinary response of our government.

President Biden immediately declared a state of emergency that unleashed the ability of FEMA to provide resources. We saw our Governor and our first responders in Vermont, our National Guard, our medical personnel—our first responders who did so much to rescue people and animals.

We saw Vermont volunteers who were along the Main Street of Montpelier when Senator SANDERS and Congresswoman BALINT and I were there coming out of their homes to help folks whose businesses had been devastated.

We saw the press, the Vermont press, reporting constantly and giving detailed information about every location in Vermont that was underwater, giving an update in a report about how things were coming and where people could help.

By the way, it is just a testament to the vital importance of local journalism. We are grateful as well for the hard work that our news organizations and the reporters did, oftentimes put-

ting themselves in some significant peril. That was very inspiring.

What is sad is that the damage of these storms and this particular storm is just overwhelming. Meeting homeowners in Barre who—one man we spoke to had lived in his home, a very modest home but very beautifully taken care of, where he raised his child and where he tended his garden. He had 4 feet of water in his basement, and that was the good news because the water had been up to his first floor. He was desperately trying to get the water out to try to get the place in a position where it was not going to have mold in his lifelong home, which means so much to him and will be repaired.

We saw a woman who lived in a mobile home. All of us know that when these weather catastrophes occur, it is oftentimes the people with the least who suffer the most. She came out of her mobile home and walked across a steep, mud-drenched field in Barre, VT, toward us and the Governor with a little pail that represented toys of her children, and she really had no place to go. Her mom had suffered flood damage as well, and they were huddling together with her partner and her kids.

What is so hard is—it is easy to understand the challenge that father had and that mother had, and we were there, and it is hopeful for them that we show up, that our Federal FEMA Administrator was there with her team, but what we know is that tomorrow, when the Sun is shining hopefully, because more rain could be forecast, her life has to go on, but it is without the foundation that she built and that father I mentioned built over 30 years.

So that is the hard part. It is really, really hard for folks who have established stability in their lives to see that business that they had committed themselves to and worked so hard to establish or that home they cared for and tended—that home where they provided security to their families. The mystery to them is what is going to happen.

It is why it is so important for us—and I am asking my colleagues for their support—that we do the minimum. The minimum is to at least get those Federal resources from FEMA back to Vermont, which is in a state of emergency and where so many Vermonters have suffered a very significant loss. They are willing to face it. People do that. They know they have got to clean that house up, but they have got to have some help. It is the help they get from their neighbors, but it also has to be the help they get from the government. It has to back folks up when, through no fault of their own, there is a catastrophic weather event and it does so much damage to the lives and livelihoods of so many.

Senator SANDERS and Congresswoman BALINT and I certainly were very proud of the Vermont response,