

Ernst	Lee	Rounds
Fischer	Lummis	Rubio
Graham	Manchin	Schmitt
Grassley	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	McConnell	Sullivan
Hawley	Moran	Thune
Hoeven	Murkowski	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Tuberville
Johnson	Ricketts	Vance
Kennedy	Risch	Wicker
Lankford	Romney	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Mullin Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jon Ossoff, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Kelly, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla.

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 motion to proceed to S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Fischer	Padilla
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Reed
Blumenthal	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hassan	Rosen
Britt	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Shaheen
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Sinema
Casey	Kaine	Smith
Cassidy	Kelly	Stabenow
Coons	King	Tester
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Thune
Cotton	Lujan	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Welch
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fetterman	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—25

Blackburn	Lankford	Sanders
Booker	Lee	Schmitt
Budd	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Collins	Markley	Sullivan
Cornyn	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Vance
Hawley	Paul	Warren
Johnson	Risch	
Kennedy	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—3

Cardin Mullin Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 25.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to put forward a unanimous consent request to pass an important bill exercising Congress's constitutional authority and approving the first modern agreement regulating trade between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill was cosponsored by all 48 Democrats and Republicans on the

Ways and Means Committee and was ultimately passed in the House of Representatives by a voice vote. It was originally put forward by Ways and Means Committee Chair SMITH and Ranking Member NEAL, as well as Senator CRAPO and myself as chair and ranking member of the Finance Committee.

Before I make this unanimous consent request on the bipartisan, bicameral bill called the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act, I want to highlight, for just a couple of minutes, why this bill is so important.

First, the reason behind this proposal, first and foremost, is that the U.S. Congress fully supports deepening our trade relationship with Taiwan and wants to ensure that the recent agreement covering trade facilitation, anti-corruption, and small business is legally sound and durable.

Not only is Taiwan a critical market for U.S. exporters, it is a democracy that shares our values and has strong ties with Oregonians and Americans across the land.

Next, this body wants to be clear that trade agreements are within the constitutional authority of the Congress. One of the ways the Senate demonstrates that is by approving trade agreements like this one.

Finally, the legislation requires greater transparency and consultation, as well as public review for future Taiwan trade agreements. Our workers, our farmers, and our businesses deserve the opportunity to read a trade agreement and understand how it affects them before it is signed by a government official and declared the law of the land. Trade agreements that affect millions of Americans can't be done in the dark. Congress and the American people need to know what is in these agreements and how they benefit American interests.

I look forward to working with the USTR, our point person for trade, to negotiate the bigger-ticket items with Taiwan—issues like digital trade, labor, environment, and agriculture, as outlined in the negotiating mandate. Future agreements need to bulldoze barriers to trade for Oregon exporters and American businesses everywhere, including by cutting red tape like labeling rules and making sure that Taiwan's technical standards don't make it tough for exporters to sell their goods. Involving Congress and the public is going to help the administration identify issues and hold them accountable for breaking down barriers.

This is a proposal that brings both sides together. The Taiwan trade agreement approval bill, as I indicated, passed unanimously in the other body. This trade agreement legislation is a can't-miss opportunity for the U.S. Senate to support Taiwan, clarify Congress's role in trade, and call for more transparency and consultation in future agreements.

Moreover, it needs to be done now. Taiwan is expecting to pass their implementing bill in the next few weeks. It is imperative that we move our bill before the administration moves forward with what is called "entry into force" to ensure that the United States gets what it has bargained for.

Let me close by saying that we especially look forward in the future to working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The chairman of the committee, Senator MENENDEZ, and I have been talking about ways to recognize the intersection between foreign relations and global economics. There are a whole host of issues—whether it is supply chains, digital trade, the environment, and the like—where we have an opportunity to really recognize that, in this century, what we have to do is break down barriers. We have to find a way to have a unifying strategy for this country, and that means coming together around foreign relations and global economics. That is what Chairman MENENDEZ and I talked about this evening and in the past, and I look forward to working with all of our colleagues on that.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4004, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4004) to approve and implement the Agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States regarding Trade between the United States of America and Taiwan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4004) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. WYDEN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL VIRGIL IVAN "GUS" GRISSOM

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, Indiana was settled by men and women who left the safety of their homes, they headed westward, and they crossed the Appalachian Mountains into the wilderness and the unknown. They were willing to endure hardship, to risk danger in search of a better tomorrow, to clear a path for others to follow. They were pioneers. But, long after our State was settled and Indiana's population drifted up from the banks of the Ohio River toward Lake Michigan, Hoosiers never stopped looking at the frontier. Only,

they cast their gaze away from the west and toward the sky.

In the fall of 1959, 15,000 people gathered in the southern Indiana town of Mitchell—population 3,500 at the time. Some lined the streets. Others sat on rooftops or watched through windows. They hadn't come to Mitchell's annual Persimmon Festival for the beauty pageant nor did they come for the pudding contest or the classic car run. No. They were there to see the convertible at the head of the festival's parade as it drove down Mitchell's Main Street. Seated inside that convertible was one of their own, a local boy. They knew him from the house on Baker Street. Maybe they knew him from Mitchell High or from the First Baptist Church. History knows him as the second American to travel to space and the first man to go there twice.

So I am proud to have the privilege to deliver these remarks in front of the Presiding Officer, who has also been to space. His name was Lt. Col. Virgil Ivan "Gus" Grissom. There he is—a great Hoosier, a great American.

I ask all who may be watching to study his portrait—that flat-top haircut, the serious expression. That was Gus Grissom. They should look at old photos of the White House press events. It is uncanny. He is the odd astronaut out, the one who looks like he would rather not be there. You see, the images don't lie. He was taciturn, tough-minded, and hard-driving.

NASA's head physician described him as "confident but not conceited." He was a "stern competitor but a good teammate, a frank but carefree speaker."

He had little use for publicity or even the press. He only went to White House events because Betty, his wife, and their boys wanted to. Gus Grissom wasn't a celebrity; he was a pilot and an engineer. He was more comfortable racing fellow Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard in his souped-up Corvette around Cape Kennedy. He was a regular guy. But the race that Gus Grissom truly cared about was the one to the stars. He was determined—determined—to beat Russia there.

"I think we ought to declare an out-and-out race with the Russians to put the first man in space," Grissom once stated.

You see, this Hoosier didn't mince words. He saw the space race as an important global competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, between freedom and communism. And the prize was more than just a flag that was planted on the Moon. It meant prestige and pride, yes, but also technological superiority and the national security and economic benefits that went with it. America won that race in part because of Gus Grissom, and our Nation reaped incredible benefits because of his sacrifice.

On July 21, 1961—almost 2 years after he was at the center of the Persimmon Festival in Mitchell—Grissom splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean, 260 nau-

tical miles south of Cape Canaveral. He had just ridden the Mercury-Redstone 4 above the Earth and back down. Appropriately, Grissom nicknamed the ship Liberty Bell 7—a tribute, of course, to the bell that rang after the reading of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Regardless of what you have read in novels or seen in movies, Grissom's flight was flawless. The vessel sank after its hatch blew—the result of a poor design and electrostatic discharge, not astronaut error.

Four years later, on March 23, 1965, friends and former classmates gathered at the First Baptist Church back in Mitchell. Nearly every business installed a television so their customers and employees could watch Grissom return to space. This was a different journey, though. The Mercury ships boosted astronauts into space and retro-rocketed them back to Earth. This new craft, Gemini, gave them a degree of control and added maneuverability—technological leaps that anticipated manned flights to the Moon.

Grissom, along with pilot John Young, did not only skillfully guide Gemini 3 as it orbited the Earth three times, he virtually designed the ship. Stung by the "hatch crap" on Liberty Bell 7, as he called it, Grissom securitized and directed the assembly of the new spacecraft. Their construction so closely followed his vision that other astronauts nicknamed the Gemini the "Gusmobile." The cockpit and seat were even configured to his 5'7" frame.

Grissom was next given command of the Apollo program's first mission, with its goal of realizing President Kennedy's charge of landing a man on the Moon before the end of the 1960s. When the Apollo Lunar Module landed at Tranquility Base in 1969, Grissom was not aboard. He had perished 2 years prior in a launch pad fire aboard Apollo 1 during testing. The tragedy, though, inspired NASA to improve the construction and, ultimately, the safety of the Apollo crafts, leading to the Moon landing.

Grissom said:

The conquest of space is worth the risk of human life.

The race to the stars ended in America's favor because he gave his.

Now, Grissom may not have been aboard Apollo 11 when it reached the Moon, but it never would have gotten there without him.

At the onset of that journey and the most daunting journeys Americans have embarked on, there has been skepticism, and there have been questions of purpose and value. It never stopped the pioneers, the doers and dreamers, and Americans like Gus Grissom from making the voyage and making our country better.

Back in the fall of 1959, during the Persimmon Festival, Mayor Roy Ira handed Grissom a plaque and gave him a simple tribute:

Mitchell is proud of Grissom. I urge our youth to take note of Virgil's example.

Six decades later, we are still proud of him, and we should all still follow his example and always press on toward the next frontier, wherever it may be.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Arizona, I ask consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:47 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:49 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. KELLY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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 WILLIAM BRANDT, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 2 months ago I had the privilege of delivering the commencement address at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago.

It was an inspiring celebration. Among the new doctors receiving their medical degrees that day were six young people who had been brought to this country as children and educated in American schools, but had never been able to become citizens.

It used to be that such young people had no real future in America. In 2012, however, with bipartisan encouragement from Senator Dick Lugar and myself, President Obama created the DACA program, which allows young people who are undocumented and meet rigorous conditions can remain in America and work legally.

That same year, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine became the first medical school in America to openly welcome undocumented DACA recipients. It was a courageous decision. But there was a big obstacle: DACA recipients are ineligible for Federal tuition assistance, and without such financial aid, most Dreamers cannot afford college, much less medical school.

In stepped a smart, visionary public servant with a creative solution. His

name was William Brandt, Jr. As chair of the Illinois Finance Authority, he created a program to provide interest-free loans to DACA students at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. In exchange, these Dreamer doctors, after they graduate, work in medically underserved areas in Illinois. In a life filled with many firsts and financial successes, Bill Brandt considered Illinois' loan program for DACA medical students his proudest achievement. It is really a model for the Nation. Thirty-eight DACA recipients have now graduated from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

As someone who has worked for more than 20 years to pass the Dream Act, I am grateful to Bill for having such faith in Dreamers. And I am deeply saddened by his recent death at the too-young age of 73. Bill Brandt was born in Chicago and his talent for business was obvious early on. In college, he worked as a door-to-door salesman for Kirby Vacuum Cleaners and once won the salesman-of-the-year award from the local distributor. His introductory pitch to customers was: "Brandt is the name; dirt sucking's the game." Who could say no to that?

In 1976, after earning a master's degree in sociology from the University of Chicago, he founded his own company, Development Specialists, Inc., and became a pioneer in the corporate restructuring and bankruptcy consulting industry.

There are people—Gordon Gekko types—who specialize in buying distressed companies only to strip them of their assets and then declare bankruptcy and fire all the employees. Bill Brandt was the opposite of that. To Bill, success meant helping struggling companies turn around. He was proud of all the companies he helped regain their financial footing and of the thousands of jobs he helped save. He believed that good public policies could make the economy stronger and fairer for everyone. When Congress passed a new Federal bankruptcy law in 1994, he testified about ways to make the new law fairer, more streamlined, and accessible to everyone.

To Bill, social justice wasn't just a theory; it was a calling. As a high school senior, he started to do community outreach at the Benton House, a social services organization in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood. He believed that government could help make life better for people and that everyone has a responsibility to hold government accountable. He was a trusted adviser and friend to many public officials, including former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and President Bill Clinton. Bill also believed that everyone has a responsibility to leave the world a better place than they found it. He certainly lived up to that responsibility, and he will be missed.

Loretta and I offer our condolences to Bill's family, especially Patrice, his wife of 43 years; their children Kath-

erine, Joan, John, and William; their grandchildren; to Bill's many friends; and to the countless others, like those Dreamer doctors at Loyola University Chicago, who will help keep his legacy alive for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JODY SINGER

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate Jody Singer on her retirement as the Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center and to express my gratitude for her countless contributions to our Nation and to the State of Alabama.

Singer, a native of Hartselle, AL, earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Alabama in 1983. She has completed two NASA fellowships, one at Pennsylvania State University in State College and another at the Simmons College Graduate School of Management in Boston.

Singer began her trailblazing 38-year National Aeronautics and Space Administration career in 1985 through the professional intern program in the mission planning and development office. In 1986, she joined the Space Shuttle Program Office, where she was an engineer in the Space Shuttle Maine engine office. In this role, she was able to aid in Return to Flight activities after the Challenger accident.

From 1990 to 2002, Singer served in various roles in the External Tank project office. These roles included business manager, technical assistant, and deputy manager. From 2002 to 2007, Singer served as the first female project manager for the Reusable Solid Rocket Booster Project, leading the team during the Columbia Return to Flight activities. Additionally, Singer served as the deputy manager in the Space Shuttle Propulsion Office from 2008 until the shuttle's successful retirement in 2011.

From 2010 to 2012, she held deputy positions for three concurrent major programs: the Space Shuttle, Ares, and the start-up of the Space Launch System. As deputy for the Shuttle Propulsion Office, she guided successful fly-out and retirement of the space shuttle in 2011 as the deputy of the Ares Project Office.

From 2013 to 2016, Singer served as manager of the Flight Programs and Partnerships Office at Marshall, where she held primary responsibility for the center's work with human advanced exploration projects, science flight mission programs, technology demonstration missions, commercial crew, and International Space Station life support systems, research facilities and payload operations. Singer also was responsible for identifying opportunities to develop and maintain partnerships with government agencies, academia, and international and commercial partners to help achieve NASA's vision.

Additionally, Singer was integral to the startup of the Space Launch System, SLS. As the deputy program manager of SLS at Marshall, she helped