

PN844 AIR FORCE nominations (1201) beginning KEVIN B. ABBOTT, and ending KAITLIN E. ZITO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN845 AIR FORCE nomination of James H. Gutzman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN846 AIR FORCE nominations (53) beginning DANIELLE N. ANDERSON, and ending BRIAN J. WELCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN847 AIR FORCE nomination of Ryan C. Caguillo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN848 AIR FORCE nomination of Mary M. Gutierrez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN849 AIR FORCE nomination of Edward W. Hale, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN781 ARMY nomination of Paul A. Stelzer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 12, 2023.

PN789 ARMY nomination of Andrew R. Updike, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 21, 2023.

PN791 ARMY nomination of Erica L. Kane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 21, 2023.

PN792 ARMY nominations (31) beginning JOSHUA T. ADE, and ending EVERETT E. ZACHARY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 21, 2023.

PN850 ARMY nomination of Charles K. Djou, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN851 ARMY nomination of Nicholas C. Molczyk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN852 ARMY nomination of David Hernandez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN853 ARMY nomination of Clydellia S. Prichard-Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN854 ARMY nomination of Espada J. Ruiz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN283—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Michael J. Fitzpatrick, and ending Thomas Laszlo Vajda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN356 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (5) beginning Christopher M. Cushing, and ending Ryan G. Washburn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN357 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (30) beginning Maura E. Barry Boyle, and ending Jaidev Singh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN495 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Ali Abdi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 30, 2023.

PN496 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Mark Petry, and ending Kimberly Sawatzki, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 30, 2023.

PN737 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (100) beginning Ihuoma A. Akamiro, and ending Jeffrey Paul Lodinsky, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 30, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN783 MARINE CORPS nomination of Leron E. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 12, 2023.

PN793 MARINE CORPS nomination of William M. Schweitzer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 21, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN784 NAVY nomination of Andres S. Piscoya, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 12, 2023.

PN856 NAVY nominations (4) beginning MARY M. AYRES, and ending REBECCA M. RIEGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN857 NAVY nomination of Daniel I. Morrison, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN858 NAVY nomination of Alan A. Gutberlet, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN859 NAVY nomination of Guillermo M. Arguello, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN860 NAVY nomination of Christopher S. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN861 NAVY nomination of Kristopher M. Brazil, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN862 NAVY nominations (10) beginning JOSHUA P. CORBIN, and ending NATHAN S. WEMETT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN863 NAVY nominations (14) beginning NICHOLAS B. ARTABAZON, and ending SARA A. ZANITSCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN864 NAVY nominations (39) beginning MARY H. BAKER, and ending TRENT A. WARNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

PN865 NAVY nomination of Peter J. Maculan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

REAPPOINTMENT OF DR. PHILLIP SWAGEL

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a joint letter from me, in my capacity as President pro tempore of the Senate, along with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, KEVIN MCCARTHY, regarding the reappointment of Dr. Phillip Swagel as the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2023.

Pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and upon recommendations by the House and Senate Budget Committees, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President pro tempore hereby appoint Dr. Phillip Swagel as the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for the term expiring January 3, 2027.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, United States House of Representatives.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore, U.S. Senate.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 198, adoption of the Warnock amendment to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces (199). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 199, adoption of the Cruz amendment to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate (421). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 200, adoption of the Wicker amendment to establish the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance (1055). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 201, adoption of the Paul amendment to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid (438). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 202, adoption of the Barrasso amendment to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a Nuclear Fuel Security Program, expand the American Assured Fuel Supply Program, establish an HALEU for Advanced Nuclear

Reactor Demonstration Projects Program, and submit a report on a civil nuclear credit program, and to enhance programs to build workforce capacity to meet critical mission needs of the Department of Energy (999). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 203, adoption of the Sanders amendment to reduce military spending (1030). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 204, adoption of the Marshall amendment to prohibit the flying, draping, or other display of any flag other than the flag of the United States at public buildings (874). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 205, adoption of the Kennedy amendment to prohibit allocations of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund for perpetrators of genocide and state sponsors of terrorism without congressional authorization (1034). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 206, adoption of the Gillibrand amendment to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to funding for the World Trade Center Health Program (1065). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 207, adoption of the Hawley amendment to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining (1058). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 208, adoption of the Menendez amendment to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018 (638). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 209, adoption of the Schatz amendment to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (1078). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 210, adoption of the Rubio amendment to provide that sums in the Thrift Savings Fund may not be invested in securities that are listed on certain foreign exchanges (523). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 211, adoption of the Reed-Wicker amendment: managers package (1087). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 212, passage of S. 2226, as amended, an original 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. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.●

NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is National Whistleblower Appreciation Day on the Hill. So today we celebrate and recognize the contributions and sacrifices that whistleblowers make every day for our country.

I have said this many times before, whistleblowers get treated like skunks at a picnic. It shouldn't be that way. Whistleblowers are patriots. This year is special because it marks the 10th anniversary of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. And I am proud to introduce the National Whistleblower Appreciation Day resolution for the 10th year in a row along with Senator WYDEN and the rest of the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus.

As early as the Revolutionary War, the first whistleblower reported fraud and misconduct. On July 30, 1778, the Founding Fathers passed the first piece of legislation to protect whistleblowers in our country. Whistleblowers are critical to the operation of good government. Whistleblowers risk their jobs, livelihoods, and reputations when they blow the whistle on government waste, fraud, and abuse.

Recently, VA whistleblowers approached my office and alerted me of the Agency's failure to secure veterans' sensitive, private information. They also exposed how the failure in security allows for staff to learn the identities of whistleblowers, leaving them vulnerable to retaliation. DEA whistleblowers also have provided important details about alleged contract irregularities and the DEA's failure to root out corruption in its foreign operations. The oversight that flows from this kind of crucial information can help clean house at DEA and save taxpayer money. It can also improve international drug interdiction and save lives. Let's also not forget about the IRS whistleblowers who have recently testified before Congress regarding wrongdoing at the IRS and Justice Department.

As many know, I have had my fair share of Justice Department whistleblowers over the years. Most recently, my public oversight activities regarding the Justice Department and FBI shows that more have come my way. God bless them all.

The information that I have made public, whether it is the VA, DEA, DOJ, or IRS, it is only because of whistleblowers that I am able to do the work. The government hides information that the American people ought to

know about. Simply put, that is wrong and we must ensure that all whistleblowers are fully protected from retaliation and championed for their work.

Accordingly, it is critically important that all Federal Agencies promote openness and transparency. They must also ensure Federal employees know their rights to blow the whistle on wrongdoing, including to Congress. Federal Agencies must protect their employees from retaliation and take appropriate corrective actions against those who retaliate against whistleblowers. For me, there is no middle ground when it comes to whistleblowers. They must be protected and fought for. Full stop.

This year, I introduced the SEC Whistleblower Reform Act to expand protections for whistleblowers and ensure SEC whistleblower awards are made in a timely manner. This bill ensures that these whistleblowers would be fully protected if they report wrongdoing to a supervisor. Since we created the SEC's Whistleblower Program in 2010, it has been a massive success. The SEC reported receiving a record number of whistleblower tips in 2022—over 12,000.

This year, I also introduced the IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act. And this week, I have introduced the False Claims Amendments Act and the CFTC Whistleblower Fund Improvement Act.

There is still a lot of work to be done. In April, I wrote to President Biden requesting him to honor whistleblowers by hosting a Rose Garden ceremony on Whistleblower Appreciation Day. I have asked every President since President Reagan to hold a Rose Garden ceremony to honor whistleblowers. No President has done so.

The task of supporting whistleblowers doesn't start and stop on Whistleblower Appreciation Day. It is a year-round job. Whistleblowers are brave men and women who perform an invaluable public service. Again, they are patriots.

Together, one day we are going to get that Rose Garden ceremony.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in 2018, we reestablished the Senate NATO Observer Group. I ask for the following Republican Senators to participate in the group: TILLIS, cochair; BARRASSO, ERNST, ROUNDS, HAGERTY, MORAN, and SCOTT of South Carolina.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent