

she held her head high. But her family says without her medication, it is likely going to be a lot of pain for her. A mother was on the phone with her son when he was abducted, and she heard him say to the terrorists: "Don't take me. I'm too young." Another mother, Shiri Silberman-Bibas, can be seen in her captor's video clutching her two young children, sheer terror in her eyes. And 23-year-old Hersh Goldberg-Polin had his arm blown off from the elbow down before he disappeared near Gaza. A young woman was thrust brutally into the back of a truck, her hands cable-tied behind her back, blood streaming down her arms, legs, and her back. A Holocaust survivor in a wheelchair—imagine surviving the Holocaust only to be taken hostage by terrorists. This is the kind of anti-Semitic violence Jewish people have faced for millennia.

Until last week, many of these people were ordinary, peaceful people just going about their daily lives: working, going to school, dancing at a music festival. Now we don't know what has become of them, and many of their families fear the worst.

As the days wear on and the situation in Gaza becomes more desperate, the danger to those hostages only grows. Already, Hamas terrorists have threatened to execute hostages. As a U.S. Senator, my top priority is the safety of the American people, and I am going to be working closely with the State Department to secure the return of 13 Americans who are still unaccounted for, like Omer and Hersh.

But as we continue in this mission, I want the hostages and their families to know, we will not stop fighting for you. We will do whatever it takes to bring you home, and we will never give in to terrorists.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

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 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. 309, Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow,

Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, 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 Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Budd	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Lankford	Sinema
Carper	Lee	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Merkley	Vance
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Cramer	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Grassley	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young

NAYS—26

Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Braun	Hoeven	Schmitt
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Crapo	Kennedy	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—11

Barrasso	Durbin	Risch
Butler	Fetterman	Rubio
Capito	Moran	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 26.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 148, that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate, and that 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. Without objection, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karen Sasahara, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sasahara nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had I been present, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 176, Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DOUG HOWARD

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, Tennessee is home to the world's most talented singers, songwriters, musicians, and composers. The music that these gifted artists create connects with us on such a personal level that sometimes it is easy to forget about the dedicated industry professionals working behind the scenes to make sure we hear it.

Doug Howard has been at the center of Nashville's music industry since the 1970s, first as a student, and then in the worlds of publishing and recording before heading back to academia. Last year, he retired from his role as the dean of Belmont University's Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music, and earlier this month, he received the Mulloy Award of Excellence for his important impact on the entertainment industry and his notable service to the Belmont University music community.

Over the years, Doug has not only nurtured this community's creative spirit but empowered them to take ownership of their craft. The fusion of artistry and business acumen that he helped foster at Belmont and in the careers of up-and-coming music professionals has, slowly but surely, changed the way artists and fans alike think about the presence of music in their lives.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I want to thank my friend Doug Howard for his dedication to Nashville's music community and congratulate him on receiving this latest, tremendous honor.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAR JAMES ROBERTSON CHAPTER

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today it is my honor to congratulate the women of the General James Robertson Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on their organization's 100th anniversary.

The General James Robertson Chapter was founded on October 16, 1923, by Maria Kirkman "Queenie" Woods Washington, a Nashville social icon who could trace her family's roots back to President George Washington. Queenie served as the chapter's first regent and immediately set high standards for her fellow members. Their early emphasis on historic preservation, education, and patriotism laid the foundation for what has become one of the Volunteer State's most active service organizations.

I am honored to count myself among the approximately 100 women of the General James Robertson Chapter who today honor that singular commitment to service. And it is my hope that the love of country that drives our membership will inspire future generations of Tennessee women to put their talents to bear on behalf of students, Active-Duty servicemembers, and their neighbors in the greater Nashville community.●

RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL'S MARIACHI JOYA

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the incredible talent and achievements of Las Vegas High School's Mariachi Joya. One of the top ensembles in one of the largest mariachi programs in the United States, Mariachi Joya brings music, joy, community, and culture to southern Nevada. I am proud to host them in our Nation's Capital in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Launching in 2018, Mariachi Joya is one of the newest mariachi programs in Clark County, but that hasn't prevented these talented students from becoming a premier ensemble. Over 250 students at Las Vegas High School participate in the school's mariachi program, and many audition for Mariachi Joya, which takes 20 young artists

each year. These students, playing the guitarron, violins, and trumpets, have quickly made Mariachi Joya the top ensemble group representing the school.

Mariachi Joya's skyrocketing fame has taken them around Las Vegas and throughout the country. The students perform locally at homecoming assemblies, sports games, Mexican Independence Day celebrations, and even at national conferences in Las Vegas. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month 2021, Mariachi Joya came to Washington, DC, to perform for the Mexican Embassy. The group made their State proud when they performed virtually at President Joe Biden's 2021 inauguration.

Despite not being able to meet in-person during the pandemic, Mariachi Joya continued to rehearse and perform together. They recorded and produced an album virtually, "Joya," which has nine tracks, including one original song.

Director Stephen Blanco leads Mariachi Joya and is wholeheartedly dedicated to his students. Mr. Blanco moved from Michigan to Nevada in order to start Las Vegas High School's mariachi program. He has developed an incredible program and was a semifinalist for the 2022 Grammy Music Educator Award.

Mariachi Joya highlights the vibrant Latino history and culture in southern Nevada. It brings the Latino community together as it spreads the beauty of its music. Most importantly, it has an impact on the students who participate. It is giving kids a support system, turning them into model students, and it boasts an impressive 100 percent graduation rate. I am so honored to recognize this incredible program, its brilliant students, and its contributions to the Latino community. I look forward to seeing Mariachi Joya continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING M'S MACHINE

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize M's Machine and Manufacturing Company of Monona, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month.

M's Machine and Manufacturing Company was founded by Phil Murphy and Chet Allen in Monona, IA, in 1981 as a way to provide original equipment manufacturers—OEMs—CNC machine services. In 1989, Virginia Drahn purchased M's Machine and Manufacturing from the original founders and continued their legacy while being a female-owned and operated business. In 2008, Virginia sold the company to family members Casey, Candace, and Cory

Drahn, with Casey currently serving as the president and Candace as vice president. Four generations of the Drahn family have worked at the company, which is still a woman-owned provider of CNC machine services. They offer CNC machine parts to the agriculture, automotive, industrial, and medical industries throughout the Midwest and have customers in North Carolina and South Carolina. M's Machine and Manufacturing Company has grown to 32 full-time employees and celebrated its 42nd business anniversary in 2023.

M's Machine and Manufacturing Company and the Drahn family are Clayton County and Monona community staples. In 2017, they were featured on KCRG's "Made in Eastern Iowa" segment, highlighting their business's growth and success as a women-owned manufacturer. The team at M's Machine and Manufacturing Company not only works hard, but they also give back. They have participated in National Manufacturing Day, an event held on the first Friday of October and have hosted local students to learn about manufacturing and encourage them to pursue jobs in the industry.

M's Machine commitment to providing OEMs with high-quality CNC machine services in Monona, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate the Drahn family and the entire team at M's Machine and Manufacturing Company for their continued dedication. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING STEFFENSMEIER WELDING AND MANUFACTURING

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing of Pilot Grove, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month.

Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing was founded by Ben Steffensmeier in 1982 as a one-person welding shop. He founded the business 2 years after graduating from Fort Madison High School in Fort Madison, IA, and learning how to weld from Joe Mertens and Paul Conrad. In 1985, the one-person shop expanded after Ben hired his brother Glenn Steffensmeier and in 1986 moved the business to their current city of operation, Pine Grove. Steffensmeier Welding and Manufacturing started as a local shop that helped local farmers and has grown to service several big-name clients. In 2000, his wife Jenny started working at the company in a part-time capacity. Jenny eventually took over the day-to-day control of the company in 2011 following Ben's battle with Frontotemporal Dementia. In 2015, Ben