

Senator KING and I will now read the names of those who lost their lives: Tricia Asselin. Tricia, age 53, was a part-time employee at Just-In-Time Recreation and was fatally shot while calling 9-1-1. She was a mother who worked three jobs, an accomplished athlete, and a terrific volunteer.

Peyton Brewer-Ross. Peyton, 40, was a new father and a pipefitter at Bath Iron Works. He enjoyed playing cornhole and often brought beanbags to family gatherings, according to his brother. He was described as the life of the party.

William Frank Brackett. William was 48. He was part of the gathering of deaf people who were playing cornhole. He was known for his ability to help place those who were deaf in the workplace. He had just celebrated his third wedding anniversary with his wife in August and leaves behind a 2½-year-old daughter.

Thomas Ryan Conrad. Thomas, 34, was manager of Just-In-Time Recreation and was an Army veteran who served tours in Iraq. He had just returned to the State of Maine to be closer to his daughter. And he was one of the brave individuals who attempted to stop the shooter.

Michael Deslauriers. Michael was fatally shot while trying to rush the gunman at Just-In-Time Recreation. His close friend Jason Walker was also killed in the bowling alley. The two men made sure that their wives and children were under cover before charging at the killer.

Maxx Hathaway. Maxx was 35 and a stay-at-home father. He and his wife were expecting their third child in a little more than a month. He was described as a "goofy, down to earth person" who always had an "uplifting attitude no matter what was going on." He was working on completing his degree in business administration at the University of Southern Maine.

Bryan MacFarlane. Bryan, 41, had recently moved back to Maine to be closer to his mother. He was playing in the cornhole tournament for the deaf community at the restaurant and bar. He loved the outdoors and was one of the first deaf people in Vermont to earn his commercial driver's license. He was often accompanied on the road by his beloved dog, M&M.

Keith Macneir. Keith Macneir was 64 and lived in Florida. He was visiting Maine to celebrate his 64th birthday with his son. He most recently worked as chief of maintenance at the Virgin Islands National Park.

Ronald Morin. Ronald, 55, was a dedicated husband and father, too, and was described by his family and friends as having an "infectious personality." He was a sales merchandiser for Coca-Cola and was an avid cornhole player.

Now Senator KING will resume the reading of the rest of those who lost their lives.

Mr. KING. Senator COLLINS mentioned that one of the most poignant parts of this tragedy was there were

four members of the Maine deaf community who happened to be at this restaurant playing cornhole—recreation, having fun.

One of them was Joshua Seal. He was 36 years old, a member of the deaf community who regularly went to the bar and grill to play cornhole. During the pandemic, this gentleman served as the American Sign Language interpreter for the head of our CDC who had press conferences practically every day. He became one of the best-known people in Maine. He was a director of interpreting services. He coordinated summer camps for the deaf and hard of hearing, and he was the father to four children.

Arthur Strout, 42, was playing pool—imagine, playing pool at a bar and grill with his father. The father, blessedly, left before the shooting occurred. Arthur was the husband and father of five children, described as a "Christmas person" who started decorating for Christmas around Halloween.

Steve Vozzella, 45, was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service and also an active member of the deaf community—a letter carrier, mailman. He was playing in the cornhole tournament for the deaf at the restaurant when the shooting happened. He was the father of two and was preparing to celebrate his 1-year anniversary with his wife next month.

Lucille Violette, 73, was a valued member of the business office at the Lewiston public schools. She was well-known in the community. She worked in the community for over 52 years. She was fatally shot alongside of her husband, Bob Violette, at the bowling alley.

Bob Violette was 76. He was a dedicated volunteer coach in a youth bowling league. He was shot and died along with his wife while out for a night of bowling.

Joseph Lawrence Walker, 57, was the manager of the bar and grill. His father is a city counselor in Auburn. He recounted that his son's final moments were spent trying to save lives during the shooting.

Jason Adam Walker. Jason Walker, 51, was a father and husband who was shot at the bowling alley. His close friend Michael Deslauriers was also killed when the two of them charged the gunman to try to make others safe. As my colleague mentioned, he made sure their wives and children were safe before they took their last risk.

William Young—Bill Young—44. Auto mechanic, father to a 14-year-old son. He was described as the rock of the family. And perhaps most poignantly, that 14-year-old son, Aaron, was also killed. He was a high school honor student, proud of his grades, avid bowler. And he lost his life that night in this tragedy.

Senator COLLINS and I, on Sunday night, were at a vigil at the magnificent Catholic basilica in Lewiston. There were well over a thousand people in that church. When we went outside

afterwards, there were well over a thousand on a cold night in Maine, watching and listening to the service.

One of the most poignant moments in the service for me was when a member of the deaf community gave his address in sign language, and it was the reverse of what we usually see where a person is speaking and there is an interpreter. In this case, the person was giving the signs, and the interpreter was giving us the words that we could hear. One of the signs was this. It means love. There is another sign in American Sign Language for love. It is this.

This community will never recover from this tragedy, but it will heal. But it will only heal as long as we remember and understand that this was a tragedy. And we have to resolve ourselves to move forward to find a way to prevent tragedies like this and to always remember those people that gave their lives on a night of fun, on a night of recreation, on a night when there was no expectation of such an event occurring. We just have to remember all of these wonderful people, these beloved people that we lost that night.

We love Lewiston. We love the State of Maine. And we will always remember, not only the events of that night, but these beloved people of Maine.

I yield the floor.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 334.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033: to be Admiral, Lisa M. Franchetti.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 334, Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title

10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033: to be Admiral.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie K. Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 329.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9033: to be General, David W. Allvin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 329, Gen. David W. Allvin for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9033: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie K. Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 333.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044: to be General, Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 333, Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie K. Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, October 31, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few moments ago, I filed cloture on the President's nominees for Chief of Naval Operations and Air Force Chief of Staff, the remaining vacancies on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I have also filed cloture on the nomination of Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney to serve as Assistant Commandant for the U.S. Marine Corps. Lieutenant General Mahoney's confirmation is urgent in light of the frightening news that Gen. Eric Smith, confirmed last month to lead the U.S. Marine Corps, was hospitalized Sunday after a serious medical emergency. We pray for General Smith's recovery. Our thoughts are with him and his family.

This scary incident involving General Smith shows why it is supremely risky to play politics with military appointments, as Senator TUBERVILLE is doing. Emergencies happen, and when they do, the chain of command must be able to respond. But thanks to Senator TUBERVILLE, there is no current No. 2 at the Marine Corps to fill in.

The situation at the Marine Corps is precisely the kind of avoidable emergency that Senator TUBERVILLE has provoked through his blanket holds. Lieutenant General Mahoney should have been appointed a very long time ago, but he is one of the more than 300 nominees whom Senator TUBERVILLE is brazenly blocking to advance his extreme agenda.

Every day that Senator TUBERVILLE continues his blanket holds, our military preparedness is worse off, our military families suffer, and our military appointments risk being further ensnared in partisan politics, which is a point of no return we must never cross in the Senate.

Senator TUBERVILLE should drop his blanket holds at once, and in the meantime, the Senate will proceed to confirm these nominations that should have been swiftly approved long ago, as has been the custom in the Senate for decades.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

STRENGTHENING COASTAL COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2023

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, on September 27, the Environment and Public Works Committee favorably reported the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2023 as an original bill by voice vote. This bill, S. 2958, expands and improves the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, also known as CBRA. I would like to formally recognize the colleagues who have worked with me on this bill and share some thoughts on its significance.

According to Senate procedure, original bills are considered a product of the committee and do not have sponsors or cosponsors. With this in mind, I wish to acknowledge for the record that Senators GRAHAM, WHITEHOUSE, and TLLIS assisted in authorship of the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2023. While these colleagues cannot be formally added as cosponsors, I want to thank them for their participation in developing this bipartisan legislation and note that I consider them to be cosponsors.