

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 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 TILLIS 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.

I would also like to ask our colleagues across the Senate for their support to pass this bill. CBRA was originally enacted in 1982, and it protects sensitive habitats along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts by restricting Federal investment within designated areas. In doing so, CBRA has saved billions of Federal tax dollars since enactment, while simultaneously protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of coastal wetlands from development. In 2019, a scientific study found that CBRA had saved the Federal taxpayer roughly \$9.5 billion since its passage and is projected to save up to \$108 billion over the next 50 years. Coastal wetlands that CBRA protects continue to provide key habitat areas for commercial and recreational fisheries, migratory birds, and endangered species.

Importantly, the areas protected under CBRA play a crucial role in coastal resilience by mitigating hurricane and flood damage. A 2023 study found that CBRA provided \$112 million per year in prevented National Flood Insurance Program claims, a 7-percent savings in annual claims.

Given this broad range of benefits, CBRA has enjoyed strong bipartisan support since its inception. CBRA was developed and introduced on a bipartisan basis in 1982, with 58 cosponsors in the Senate led by sponsor Senator John H. Chafee of Rhode Island. CBRA's co-author, Representative Thomas B. Evans from my home State of Delaware, said CBRA was needed because "the U.S. taxpayer should not subsidize and bear the risk for private development on coastal barriers." President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law, noting that CBRA adopts a "sensible approach" to conservation that also saves taxpayer dollars. CBRA has continued to enjoy strong bipartisan support in subsequent improvements, map enactments, and reauthorizations in 1988, 1990, 2000, 2006, and 2018.

The areas protected under CBRA are identified in official maps that must be authorized by Congress and have not been comprehensively revised since 1990. The 1990s-era maps were created using now-antiquated mapping techniques and, as a result, are imprecise, difficult to apply in practice, and contain errors that impact property owners and project proponents. Congress has recognized this problem and directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to undergo a yearslong modernization process to recommend updates to these maps. In 2013, the Fish and Wildlife Service received supplemental appropriations related to Hurricane Sandy in order to modernize CBRS maps, resulting in extensive recommended revisions along the Mid-Atlantic and New England coasts.

The Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2023 adopts the comprehensively revised maps prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 187 updated CBRS maps and 11 new maps, including maps prepared through

the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project and other technical correction reviews. Enacting this legislation will provide critical modernization of CBRA implementation, in addition to making other improvements and technical corrections in CBRA.

With that said, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to Senators GRAMM, WHITEHOUSE, and TILLIS, who have been indispensable partners in the development of the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2023. I look forward to continuing to work with them and our colleagues in the House to pass S. 2958 and enact it into law.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WYOMING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Wyoming Women in Agriculture. This organization is paving the way for a better future for all Wyoming ranchers.

Ranchers Sharon Cardwell and Peggy Price of Alcova, WY, had a casual conversation in 1993. They decided female ranchers needed an organization that addressed their distinct challenges. The role of women in ranching has changed over the years. Women are now actively involved in integral management decisions, either as independent ranchers or with their husbands. They are often isolated, far from the closest town or another ranch. Sharon and Peggy founded Wyoming Women in Ag to bring together a community of like-minded women. They were assisted by Jerry Buk and Debbie Johnson, both employees with the University of Wyoming extension office in Casper. The first board for Wyoming Women in Ag included Chairman Sharon Cardwell, Vice Chairman Peggy Price, Treasurer Anne Miles, and Secretary Ruth Stevenson.

In 1998, Wyoming Women in Ag was established with official nonprofit status. They are an "organization that provides information on current topics important to women in the agriculture industry." They soon branched out from Natrona County and included women from all over the Cowboy State. Wyoming Women in Ag will celebrate their 30th anniversary at their 2023 Symposium and Diversity Tour in Worland, WY. This annual event brings women together who share a similar way of life. The event location rotates between counties and includes a speaker who is a featured industry professional. Women have the opportunity to connect with their fellow ranchers to "ensure the next generation of women are educated, encouraged, and empowered to take on the challenges of meeting the world's growing food, fuel, and fiber needs." Attendees participate in a variety of workshops and have access to a trade show. The 2023 Women in Ag committee members are Abbi Rodgers, president; Julie Volker, vice president; Stacey Schmid, Secretary; Traci

Faxon, Secretary; Angela Grant, Treasurer; and committee members Madison Trimble, Heidi Foy, and Caitlin Youngquist.

It is an honor for me to rise in recognition of this significant milestone. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to Wyoming Women in Agriculture for their 30th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO PETER MULLER

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of my former colleague, the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, to recognize the dedicated service of her long-time State director, Peter Muller.

Born and raised in San Jose, Peter is a native Californian and has spent his career serving the people of the Golden State. After graduating from St. Mary's College of California, he earned his master's in political science and government from American University.

Peter began his career in Congress in 1992 as a legislative assistant for then-Congressman Norman Mineta, where he served until Congressman Mineta's retirement in 1995. Peter then served as legislative director to Congresswoman Karen McCarthy before joining Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher's office in 1997, first as legislative director and then as her chief of staff. Peter spent 9 years with Congresswoman Tauscher and distinguished himself through his work with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and his efforts leading the development of the New Democrat Coalition.

After three stints away from Capitol Hill working for California-based Genentech, Intel, and Metrolink and a move to Los Angeles, Peter joined Senator Feinstein's staff in 2016 as her deputy State director. He subsequently served as her State director until her passing last month.

Every member of this Chamber knows the importance of their State director. They serve as our eyes and ears in our State, and they often act as our proxy when a cross-country flight isn't manageable. They lead our State teams with incredible patience and care, ensuring our offices run efficiently and our constituents receive the services they need. And they do it all for the good of the people we were elected to serve.

Peter was by Senator Feinstein's side for good times and bad, through a reelection campaign and Supreme Court confirmations, impeachments and insurrection, and the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that Senator Feinstein valued his counsel on many contentious issues, and he was often the first person she turned to when considering the impact of an issue on her beloved California. He was essential to her lasting efforts to protect California's public lands and water resources, improve our immigration system, secure funding for the West Los Angeles VA campus, and many of her other priorities throughout the State.