

funding to States through block grants. So this bill is both counter-productive and unnecessary.

For these reasons, I would urge my colleagues to vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 662

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent; the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 43, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Lummis	Tuberville
Cotton	Marshall	Vance
Cramer	McConnell	Wicker
Crapo	Moran	Young
Cruz	Mullin	
Daines	Murkowski	

NAYS—53

Baldwin	Hassan	Ricketts
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Lee	Scott (SC)
Manchin	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays 53.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill, as amended, fails passage.

The bill (H.R. 662), as amended, was rejected.

The Senator from New Mexico.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LUJÁN. 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.

The Senator from Alaska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues for coming down here tonight. It is a very important issue that we are getting ready to talk about.

We are in a very dangerous world right now. Our country is being challenged on multiple fronts across the globe. We literally have American troops under attack in the Middle East.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, as a U.S. Marine Corps colonel, I know—we all know here in the Senate—that America needs to have our best players, our most combat-capable leaders on the field, and, right now, that is not happening. It needs to change.

I just want to begin by saying something very clear. You are going to hear this a lot. I am as pro-life as they come. I strongly disagree with what Secretary Austin and President Biden have done with their politicization of the military on a whole host of fronts, including the abortion policy, which I think is illegal and violates the Hyde amendment.

And I have been working with many colleagues, but especially Senator TUBERVILLE from Alabama, side by side, for months, trying to get this reversed, trying to get compromises. At the same time, we have been telling the majority leader: Do your job. Do your job. Bring up nominees so we can vote on them.

Now, we have had to force them to do it. Tomorrow, we are going to be voting on the CNO of the Navy, a member of the Joint Chiefs; the Chief of Staff of the Air Force; the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps—not because the majority leader brought them up, but because we forced them to. He needs to do his job.

But I also firmly believe that one of our most core basic principles—certainly, as Republicans—which I think in many ways distinguishes us from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, is our serious focus on national security, readiness, a strong military, and taking care of our troops and their families.

We all know there are current holds on our military. I want the American people to know right now, 376 promotions to one-, two-, three-, and four-star generals and admirals are being held. It is estimated that, by the end of this year, 89 percent of all general offi-

cer positions in the U.S. military will be affected by the current holds from Senator TUBERVILLE. Either the members have to be forced to retire, positions not filled, in acting capacity, or will be unable to retire—this is pretty much the entire officer corps. This is hugely disruptive to readiness.

A couple of examples: 288 one- and two-star generals are being held. These are the men and women who run the military right now. We are going to talk about other places. The First Marine Expeditionary Force, the Third Marine Expeditionary Force—these are the war fighting organizations of the Marine Corps—the Seventh Fleet, which is our fighting naval force in the Taiwan Strait; the Fifth Fleet, the fighting naval force in the Middle East. It goes on and on. NATO Deputy Chairman, a three-star job, empty; Deputy U.S. CENTCOM Commander, empty. The head of the Navy nuclear program, the head of missile defense—all non-confirmed.

We have a big challenge right now. Let me be a bit more blunt on the issue of morale. The military has a huge readiness and retention problem. These holds are not helping.

As I mentioned, I am a senior colonel in the Marines. Many of the one-star and two-star who are being held right now are in my peer group. I have known these men and women for 30 years. There is growing bitterness within the ranks of our military, driven by this fact, and I want people to understand this. The men and women in the military who served our country so well for decades—probably the most combat-experienced generation since World War II—have made huge sacrifices, multiple deployments, and now their careers are being punished over a policy dispute they had nothing to do with and no power to resolve.

That is what is happening right now, and the idea that some of these officers are supposedly woke or desk jockeys is ridiculous. These are some of the most combat-experienced generals and admirals we have ever had in our country.

Finally, these holds also pose strategic risks to our force. What does that mean? We are starting to see military officers saying: Admirals and generals, I am getting out. Or they have to get out if they are going to be timed out.

We had a scandal in the U.S. Navy several years ago called the “Fat Leonard” scandal. It literally wiped out a generation of Navy officers who had Pacific experience. We do not want to be responsible for a Senate-inflicted hollowing out of our most experienced military officers, especially given how dangerous the world is right now.

So I have mentioned this before. I have worked closely with Senator TUBERVILLE for months, always defending his holds, always looking for compromise. The one we are working on now: Lift the hold on the military officers who have nothing to do with this dispute and can't resolve it anyway, and put a hold on the Under Secretary

of Defense for Policy, who is in charge of this issue. Let's do that. That is a good compromise.

But we haven't made progress, and the world is a dangerous place. So tonight we are taking another approach. For months, Senator TUBERVILLE has said, if individual nominees are brought up for a vote one at a time, he will be fine with that. On September 6, he said: I am not holding up nominations for being approved. They can bring them to the floor one at a time.

Well, tonight, that is exactly what we are going to do—individual votes on individual nominees, just as Senator TUBERVILLE has requested. We have dozens. I hope the Senator from Alabama meant what he said on this issue, and he backs our troops, who are true warriors and, yes, heroes, who along with their families have dedicated their lives to this country, risked their lives for this country, and have nothing to do with this current policy dispute—nothing at all.

Last night on TV, Senator TUBERVILLE said he was "all for the military"—in particular, our military heroes.

You are going to hear a lot about military heroes tonight, and, hopefully, we are going to get a bunch of them confirmed, one by one, as we bring them up.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, the world is on fire because of Joe Biden's failed leadership and ongoing weakness. Our enemies are on the march. Our servicemembers are under attack by Iran-backed proxies. And our country is under greater threat than it has been in years.

Innocent lives are on the line here at home and abroad. At home, the Biden DOD is waging a war on the unborn—a war that is immoral and unlawful.

I am a mother. I have carried a baby girl in my womb who is now a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and my baby girl is now carrying a baby of her own. And I am proudly, adamantly, and unabashedly pro-life. I always will be. That is why I have—I have—led the legislation to overturn this woke Dodd policy and will not rest in this fight for life, especially as we work through this year's Defense bill.

Abroad, our friend and ally Israel is under assault by ruthless Iran-backed Hamas. Jewish babies have been murdered, burned in ovens, and some even stripped from their mothers' wombs.

As a 23-year combat veteran and retired lieutenant colonel of our great U.S. Army, I firmly believe the Pentagon should be focused on protecting innocent life, not destroying it.

Joe Biden and Secretary Austin are weak and woke. The architects of this immoral policy should be held accountable. Anyone trying to insert their radical agenda into the military has no place in the Pentagon. No Senator

should support any person or dollar that threatens the lethality of our warfighters.

Catering to the far left does not win wars or keep Americans safe. Our servicemembers have been failed by their Commander in Chief, and we must do right by them and the security and protection of our own Nation.

For over 9 months now, CHUCK SCHUMER has used our military men and women as political pawns, refusing to allow the Senate to do its job of vetting and voting on military nominees. Only when Republicans forced the majority leader's hand did he finally relent and move on a few of those nominees.

Tonight, we are once again standing up for valiant individuals who have answered the call to selfless service. Unlike in the past, when promotions were quietly approved en bloc with no discussion, tonight we will be highlighting the distinguished careers of each and then putting their nomination before the Senate for confirmation individually by voice vote.

And with that, I will yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you to my colleagues. Thank you for your leadership here.

Senator TUBERVILLE, I hope we can find a way to get this behind us, if possible. So my contribution to the debate is as follows: The bedrock of our democracy is that the military will be subordinate to civilian control. That has served our Nation well—that no matter who is in uniform, they answer to civilian authorities, and they are subordinate to the will of the civilian leadership elected and appointed. That has really helped our country be who we are today.

One of the things that I can't understand is, if you require our military to be subordinate to the people above them in the civilian world, why would you punish them for something they have nothing to do with?

All of these people—and if we need to call all 376, I will be glad to do it. I will get some rest this weekend and come back next week. I am going to start with two. All I am asking is to allow Major General Lenderman to get promoted. I will make that request in a minute.

Major General Lenderman is a two-star general. She got promoted to three-star because her peers—the military promotion system—saw in her leadership qualities. And after I read her bio, I now know why she got promoted.

But the job she is going into, she is going to be the Deputy Commander, Headquarters, Pacific Air Force, Hawaii. She would be responsible for Air Force activities over half the globe. The command supports 46,000 Airmen serving principally in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Alaska and Guam. That has a lot to do with the Indo-Pacific theater.

She has 3,000 flight hours as a KC-135, KC-10, KC-46 pilot. In case you don't

know what that means, she flies the air refueling tankers that our fighters and our bombers come up to to stay in the fight. This is some of the hardest flying in the Air Force. You have to have your stuff together because refueling at night is not some easy thing. I have actually seen it done. I am an Air Force lawyer. They shouldn't let me near an airplane, but they did.

I can tell you this, this lady has proven herself time and time again: 3,000 hours—I am sure most of it is combat—doing some of the hardest things any pilot can do in the Air Force. And she has zero to do with what happened. I don't know what her beliefs are about the life issue. I am pro-life, too, but I don't want to start asking our military members litmus test questions.

She deserves to be promoted. You are not going to change policy that she didn't make by denying her the ability to be promoted. We need this lady as a three-star yesterday to deal with the threats coming from China and that part of the world.

She is a graduate of Duke University. She has had every major job I can think of in Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, which I have been to several times.

I am asking tonight that she be allowed to be promoted because she has had nothing to do with the policy we all object with. Holding her hostage doesn't help the pro-life cause. It hurts the military. The most pro-life people I know are the ones willing to die for us. She is willing to die for this country. She has proven herself time and time again. She needs to be promoted.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive calendar No. 189, Laura L. Lenderman, to lieutenant general and Deputy Commander, Pacific Air Forces; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object, I want to start by thanking my colleagues for their service in the Armed Forces in the greatest country ever. There is no institution in this world I honor more than the U.S. military. I am thankful to every veteran in this country.

I also want to note that I respect my colleagues' strong pro-life voting record. The Republican Party has been the pro-life party for half a century. We ought to be proud that we stand for life. We stand for the most vulnerable of our society: the unborn. I know my colleagues here share that conviction. The disagreement we are having today is about tactics.

Let me explain why I am doing it, how we got here, and where we go from

here. Nine months ago, the Pentagon announced that they would start using our taxpayer dollars to facilitate abortion. Let me say that one more time. Nine months ago, the Pentagon announced—announced by memo—that they would start using our taxpayer dollars to facilitate abortion. The Pentagon is now paying for travel and extra time off for servicemembers and their dependents to get abortions.

Congress never voted for this. We also never appropriated the money for this. There is no law that allows them to do this. In fact, there is a law that says they can't do this. One more time: There is a law that says they can't do this, created in this room. It is 10 USC, Section 1093. It says the only time the Pentagon can spend taxpayer dollars on abortion is in cases of rape, incest, and threat to the health of the mom. So this is a policy that is illegal and immoral. This is about life, and it is also about the rule of law. It is about our Constitution. It is about whether we make laws at the Pentagon or whether we follow the Constitution.

This is also about the integrity of our military. The only thing in this world I honor more than our military is the Constitution. We all swore to uphold the Constitution. I also feel very strongly about the obligation to uphold it every day in this room. I cannot simply sit idly by while the Biden administration injects politics in our military—again—injects politics in our military from the White House and spends taxpayers' dollars on abortion.

The only power that a Senator in the minority has is to put a hold on a nomination—the only thing. I am not the first person to do this. Holds on nominations happen all the time. Holds on military nominations have happened many, many, many, many times before. Typically, they don't last as long because the administration will work with a Senator until the issue is resolved. But that has not happened this time. Zero negotiation.

Abortion is the most important thing to the Democrats that they have, and they won't negotiate. One more time: Abortion is the most important thing the Democrats have, and they will not negotiate.

This has been going on for 9 months. Every day this continues is a day that Democrats think abortion is more important than the nomination at our military. I support many of these nominees, and I agree that these are very, very important jobs. But we could have been voting on these nominees the entire 9 months.

The Senate has had more than 90 days off this year, not including weekends. Each nomination could take as little as 2 hours. In fact, tomorrow we will be voting on three of the most important nominees that we forced the leader of the Senate to bring to the floor. The nominees at the very top ought to be voted on anyway. These jobs are too important not to receive the advice and consent of the Senate.

I have to respectfully disagree with my colleagues about the effect of my hold on readiness. My hold is not affecting readiness. The Biden administration has been saying this for months, but nobody has an explanation. Nobody. The fact is, no jobs are going unfilled. Every job is being done. In fact, GEN Mark Milley said recently that our readiness is the best it has been in years. Time and again, generals and servicemembers have assured me that they are ready to go. I believe them.

I am going to keep my holds in place. If Senators want to vote on these nominees one by one, I am all in. I am happy to do that. But I will keep my hold in place until the Pentagon follows the law or the Democrats change the law. This is about our Constitution. This is about the rule of law. That is what we are about in here. It is about the integrity of our military. It is about keeping politics out of the military. I did not put it in the military. Joe Biden and Secretary Austin put politics in the military. And it is about the right to life. These are some of the most important things in the world to me. And so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will have another one.

Let me respond to my colleague respectfully. We have courts. If you think they have done something illegal, go to court. That is how you handle these things. The Pentagon has issued a legal opinion I disagree with, saying this doesn't violate the Hyde Amendment. I disagree with it.

Here is what is going to happen. You just denied this lady a promotion. You did that. All of us are ready to promote her because she deserves to be promoted. She had nothing to do with this policy. Let me say it again. Everybody in this body could find an issue with any administration they don't agree with. And what we are going to do is open up Pandora's box. Today is abortion policy.

If we take back the White House, we will go back to the Mexico City policy, limiting dollars to be given to overseas entities that are engaged in the abortion business. Some pro-choice people don't like that. What would happen if they put a hold on all of the officers because they don't agree with the Republican administration? There is a reason this has not been done this way for a couple hundred years.

No matter whether you believe it or not, Senator TUBERVILLE, this is doing great damage to our military. I don't say that lightly. I have been trying to work with you for 9 months. Folks, if this keeps going, people are going to leave.

Let me tell you how the system works. You have 18 months, I think, from the time you are promoted to pen on. If you don't make that gate, your time and grade up-or-out rule kicks in.

There are some people that are waiting to be promoted that if they don't get promoted soon, they will be out of the military.

Now, how does that help anybody if they are qualified? There is not one Senator in here that cannot find a reason to object to an administration policy in the military. None of us. We could all find something. I just hope we don't do this routinely, because if this is the norm, who the hell wants to serve in the military when your promotion can be canned based on something you had nothing to do with? She had nothing to do with this. If you think it is illegal, go to court. We have courts in this country.

I have one more: Rear Admiral Fred Kacher. Fred, sorry if I mispronounced your name. He has been promoted to three-star. OK? That is a pretty big deal. I made colonel and that is as far as I could go and that is probably a gift.

What job does he have? He is going to be the Commander of the 7th Fleet, Japan. Somebody is doing his job right now, but they are not a three-star. We have a military promotion system to reward people who are good at what they do so they can have more responsibility. This officer had zero to do with the Pentagon's decision, which I don't like and you don't like, but he can't get promoted because of one of us.

There is no end to this, folks. If this gets to be the norm, you are going to wreck the military promotion system. You are punishing people who, by law under the Constitution, require to be subservient to civilian control. They have to follow civilian control. And you are punishing them for something they didn't do. Punish the civilians who made the policy. That is the way to do it.

I am going to move that Rear Admiral Fred Kacher be immediately promoted to three-star, 7th Fleet, Japan, Commander. It is the largest forward-deployed fleet operating around China, Russia, and North Korea. Given the threats coming from that area, I think we need this guy, like, yesterday.

He is a 1990 U.S. Naval graduate. He commanded guided-missile destroyers. He has been—this is amazing; you need to read about this guy. We want this guy. Coach, we need this guy. We are in a fight. We need the best people on the field. He is off the field for something he had nothing to do with.

And if this gets to be normal—I will end where I started. If this gets to be normal, God help the military because every one of us could find some reason to object to policy. Let's just don't hold hostage the men and women who have to follow civilian control. Let's don't ruin the lives of all these people who have been serving our Nation for decades.

Their families can't enroll in school. Some of them are going to be knocked out of promotion because of time and grade problems. There are families

struggling out there because they can't move to the next assignment. This doesn't help anybody. It doesn't help any cause.

So I ask unanimous consent that this promotion be taken up under Executive Calendar No. 189; Rear Admiral Kacher, 7th Fleet Commander; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator will hold.

Mr. GRAHAM. Oh, sorry, sorry. This is why I didn't get promoted. Executive Calendar No. 85.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Frederick W. Kacher. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. GRAHAM. And we will be doing this 376 times.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I thank the President for the recognition.

Let me begin with the obvious because I think Senator GRAHAM did a great job of laying out what is at stake. He offered multiple arguments for why these amazing patriots who dedicated their professional lives to defending our safety, our security, our way of life should be promoted and should be promoted this evening.

But a different take is just to begin with the obvious: We are in the midst of the most complicated and, therefore, the most complex and perilous security environment that I have ever experienced in my adult lifetime, certainly.

Israel, our closest friend, our ally, is at war. Ukrainian freedom fighters remain at war against our adversary, Russia. We have a porous southern border. Last month alone, we had 18 individuals apprehended who are—just those who were apprehended—who are on the Terrorist Watchlist. There are all sorts of concerns about what might happen in the Indo-Pacific amidst this environment. We need a fully staffed, fully competent, fully engaged, and focused security establishment.

We need these individuals to be put in place to assume the jobs that they are prepared for. So the security environment is incredibly dangerous. That means Mr. TUBERVILLE's constituents in Alabama, my constituents in Indiana, and Americans all across the country, all across the world, their safety and security is in danger amidst this perilous time. So that is unique, but what is also unique is the number of holds.

My friend—and he is my friend. He is a genuine friend. I have got a lot of respect for this man, Senator

TUBERVILLE, to my right. But the number of holds is certainly extraordinary. I think he would concede that because he is also a smart colleague.

The length of the holds is extraordinary as well, but the tactics here, this is something that Senator SULLIVAN, who showed great leadership on this issue, Senator ERNST, myself, and many other colleagues have questioned. I am fervently, I am passionately, I am unapologetically pro-life in conviction and in deed. My reputation is untarnished, and it is unambiguous in that regard.

So I have every interest in seeing that we assume a smart tactic, a smart game plan, if you will. And to hold responsible, effectively, 300 nominated patriots who ought to be pinning on a star or another star right now—hold them professionally responsible for this and, by extension, to undermine the safety and security of the American people during this perilous time just doesn't make any sense to me.

Instead, it makes more sense for us to hold accountable someone whom the President has nominated to fill the policy position at the Pentagon who would actually oversee implementation and administration of this horrible policy. I said that publicly, and to the extent Mr. TUBERVILLE would remain open—to put it indelicately—to taking that hostage, I would be open to that tactic. But because that is not the case, we have a disagreement here, and it is going to have to be reconciled. I know Senator TUBERVILLE wants to be a good teammate, a good pro-life teammate and a good national security teammate. There is an opportunity here for him to agree to at least—to at least—allow the following patriot to be confirmed this evening.

Mr. President, I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 131, VADM Karl Thomas, U.S. Navy, to be Vice Admiral and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination, Executive Calendar No. 131, Karl Thomas, to be Vice Admiral and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Director of Naval Intelligence; that the Senate vote on the nomination of this esteemed individual, with whom I visited when I was in Japan earlier this year, without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider would be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise out of great concern for our military,

for its readiness in a time of great peril but also out of concern for the men and women who are being held up and whose careers and prospects and families and plans are being interrupted by virtue of the decision by, in this case, two people—one is Secretary Austin and the other is Senator TUBERVILLE—to take intractable positions.

And it is simply a, in my opinion, an abuse of the powers we have as Senators to say if there is something we vehemently disagree with, that we are going to use that power to hold up the promotion of over 350 men and women in our military.

We each have things we might disagree with, with the military, and some would come with deep personal convictions about their morality. But if each Senator felt empowered to hold up all promotions in our military unless we got our way on one of those issues, why, our military would grind to a halt.

This power is extraordinary that we are given as individual Senators, but it is incumbent upon us to use it in a reasonable way and not to abuse it in such a way that we end up putting in harm's way the capabilities of our military and the well-being of our men and women in uniform.

Senator TUBERVILLE correctly pointed out—I believe he is absolutely right—that what Secretary Austin did was in contravention of the Hyde amendment, against the law. We have a process for pursuing things that are done by an administration that are against the law. It is the court process. I am happy to join with an amicus brief or even file a legal action to reverse the Pentagon's policy. That is the process we should follow in a circumstance like this, not one that is being exacted upon 350 men and women whom we need to have in service and whose lives are being so badly disrupted.

I would also offer this: Senator TUBERVILLE, if the Department of Defense, Secretary Austin were to say: OK. We will no longer pay for the travel of these individuals and their dependents but instead allow a private charity to do so, would that be acceptable to you and allow this to go away?

I am looking for—yes. So for instance, if Secretary Austin agrees, all right, we will eliminate this policy, but we will allow a private charity to provide for the travel for someone who wants to receive an abortion in a State where that procedure is legal, would that satisfy you and allow this impasse to be resolved?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Senator, that was the type of negotiation I have been looking for, for the last 9 months. Nobody—zero—has come to me with any alternatives to bypass to get this done.

Mr. ROMNEY. Would that be an acceptable alternative?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. It would; it would be a good starting point. We can sit down and work this out, but we can't do it without negotiations. That is

what I was saying earlier. There have been zero negotiations. There has been no give. It has all been take—three 1-minute calls with the Secretary. I haven't talked to him since June. There has been no more conversation. So how do you work out a problem without communication?

Mr. ROMNEY. Yes. Well, I have ways of doing that, which is I will pick up the phone and have that conversation. But we have to make sure that we do not continue to hold up 350-plus people from being able to get promoted. That is essential to our military.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we are going to start moving through some of these nominations. My colleague from Alabama has said publicly, hey, bring them up one at a time. And we are asking for a voice vote, so that is a vote. So we are doing what he said, not sure why he is objecting. Maybe he can explain that in a minute when I bring up another—a real hero by the way.

And, look, what Senator TUBERVILLE said about the policy and Austin and Biden on this abortion policy, I fully agree with him. We should be suing to stop it. I think it is illegal. And he is also right; everybody uses holds. I certainly use holds.

But the key is you put a hold on someone who typically has some kind of control over the issue that you are trying to fix, some kind of responsibility. One of the things I have been talking to the Senator from Alabama on is, all right, let's put a hold on the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. He is the guy. He is a civilian, and he is in charge of this policy dispute. Let's put a hold on him—that is the right guy—and squeeze him. But why are we putting holds on war heroes? I am going to get to one here in a minute.

Again, I just—I don't understand. And, look, we can go in and out of readiness, but my colleague from Alabama is 100 percent wrong, no kidding. The readiness is being impacted when you have—I will just give a couple of examples here. This is just from one theater: EUCOM, the Deputy Chairman of NATO, pretty important job. It is a three-star billet. It is empty.

The Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe—really important job—empty.

Like I said, I MEF—that is the big Marine Corps combined force that fights anywhere in the world; 25,000 marines, commanded by a three-star—it is a two-star. Now, for those who did serve in the military, we understand this is a problem. Same with III MEF. OK. This is just from EUCOM, European Command—72 officers are unable to assume their new positions. These 72 officers include 52 who cannot move because they have been nominated for a position that requires Senate confirmation, as well as 20 other officers who are projected to be assigned to a new position now held by one of the pre-

vious 52 officers. It is creating a giant blockage in the way in which the military operates.

To say there are no readiness issues—I am the ranking member of the Readiness Subcommittee on the Armed Services Committee. There are readiness issues. And that is the whole point. We have a really dangerous world, a really dangerous world right now, and to say, "Oh, don't worry; this isn't impacting readiness," with all due respect to my colleague, that is just wrong. It is not even a close call. It is wrong, and it matters to this country.

Let me give you another example: the head of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, the nuclear navy—one of the best run organizations on planet Earth, if you know anything about the military or just its organizations. It was started by Admiral Rickover. To not have the leadership in charge of the nuclear navy? That is a problem. To not have the leadership in charge of missile defense for America? That is a problem.

So, look, we can debate readiness, but my colleague on this, in my view, is respectfully quite misinformed.

I am going to bring up my first nominee. Now, this goes to the issue of some comments that have come out during this: Well, these one-star and two-star generals are kind of desk jockeys, right?

These comments have been made.

They are not warriors, right? The real warriors are the captains and the sergeants.

Look, I love the whole military, but the one- and two-star Generals—I know a lot of them. That is my peer group in the Marine Corps. I am a little bit behind them. I am not going to be promoted. I am getting out here probably soon. But I know these guys, and the idea that somehow these are desk jockeys? Do you know who these people were, the one- and two-stars we are holding up right now, 289 of them? These were the Captains and Lieutenants who were going fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11.

The current Commandant of the Marine Corps—by the way, every American should be praying for him; big health issues—he has a Purple Heart, distinguished combat.

These were the people who were kicking in doors in Fallujah, shooting terrorists in the face, and we have people saying they are desk jockeys and they are not warriors? That is just ridiculous. It is ridiculous, and it is insulting.

So I am going to talk about a warrior. I am getting ready to call up Col. Robert Weiler. He has been nominated to be a one-star Brigadier General, to be the 1st Marine Division Assistant Commander. That is the big division on the west coast of the U.S. Marine Corps infantry. I used to be part of the 1st Marine Division. I am proud of that. You need a Deputy Commander. They don't have one, OK?

Let's talk about Colonel Weiler—28-year career; commanded the 5th Ma-

rine Regiment—I was in that regiment, the most decorated regiment in the Marine Corps; 2d Battalion 4th Marines; 2d Battalion 24th Marines; deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan I think six times.

Think about what his family went through, OK? Think about what his family has sacrificed. And right now, people are being told: You are not going anywhere, Colonel, because we have a dispute on an issue you have nothing to do with that you can't resolve.

Let's hear a little bit more about this Colonel in the Marine Corps. He received a Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Commanding Officer, Weapons Company, 2d Battalion 4th Marines, 5th Marine Regiment, 6 through 10 April 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; heavily engaged by enemy forces for an over 4-hour firefight while wounded by enemy fire, OK? Purple Heart. He continued to fearlessly lead marines as they destroyed this tenacious enemy. He is no woke guy. He is no desk jockey. Oh, what else did he do? He got a Purple Heart in that vicious combat.

He received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a combat distinguishing device for heroic action in another deployment—2d Battalion 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on 6 September in Ramadi, Iraq. He took decisive action by directing fires of his raid force, quickly gaining fire superiority and suppressing and killing the enemy. Although dazed by a major blast, he continued to lead and direct his team in combat, where they killed and captured all five insurgents on their target raid list. So we are going to block him tonight?

The Senator from Alabama last night on TV said he respects all military, especially the heroes.

Well, you got one coming. You got one coming, Senator.

So we are going to do what you asked, which is do a vote individually on this American hero.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination: Col. Robert S. Weiler to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Marine Corps under Executive Calendar No. 95; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object, first of all, I would like to correct something my colleague just said. Not one time in my life have I ever said anything about anybody in our military was a desk jockey. I don't know where he got that from. I guess that is a military term. I would not do

that. I would not disrespect anybody in any job in the military that they have ever done. So I just want to set that story straight with people who will write a little bit about this disagreement tonight.

But with that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I know this is a frustrating exercise, but we are going to flesh out some of these nominees tonight, truly incredible individuals who have served our Nation through thick and thin. These are folks who deserve to be promoted.

So I rise today to talk about Lt. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot on his promotion to the grade of General and his nomination to be the next Commander of U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, also known as NORAD.

General Guillot is from Tucson, AZ, and he is a proud graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. I am sorry he could not get into West Point. He has successfully commanded a flying squadron operations group, two flying wings, a numbered Air Force, and has admirably served on numbered Air Force, major command, and combatant command staffs.

He is an expert in his field, as demonstrated by having been an Air Force Weapons School instructor and graduate of the National War College.

General Guillot is a decorated warfighter and a senior air battle manager by training who is currently the Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command. He has been instrumental integrating air, missile, and drone defense systems across the Middle East—experience that is applicable to the challenges facing NORTHCOM's air and missile defenses.

I believe that General Guillot's qualifications, his record, and his outstanding character make him the right nominee to serve in this important role.

So we can confirm this nomination by voice vote right here, now, and therefore I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 236, Lt. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot to be General; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, if I can just address this very briefly before we move to my colleague from Indiana, I have a discharge petition that was signed at our conference lunch the

other day for Lt. Gen. General M. Guillot. That discharge petition was signed by Senator TUBERVILLE, meaning that Senator TUBERVILLE believed that we should be voting on General Guillot. I was asking for a voice vote for General Guillot this evening.

I am not sure how we remedy this situation, but I can tell you we will keep working on these nominations, and we will get answers someday, and they will be confirmed someday if we have the intestinal fortitude to do what is right by our military men and women, who have absolutely nothing to do with the policy that was put in place by Secretary Lloyd Austin and President Joe Biden.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 238, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Kruse, U.S. Air Force, to be Lieutenant General and Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

General Kruse currently serves as the Director's Advisor for Military Affairs at the Office of the DNI. This is a post he has held since 2020. One need not have me explain to them—especially if they are tuned in to matters of national security—the importance of our Defense Intelligence Agency at a time like this.

Previously, Mr. Kruse served as the Director for Defense Intelligence for Warfighter Support in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

Prior to his OSD and interagency roles, General Kruse served as the Director for Intelligence at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, deployed as Director of Intelligence for Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, and served as Senior Special Advisor for the Commander of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

He has commanded Air Force units at all levels across seemingly every geography, and he has deployed on multiple occasions to combat theaters around the globe.

Feeling good about this one. We can confirm this nomination by voice vote right now.

Feeling really good, Senator TUBERVILLE.

It is for that reason that I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 238, Jeffrey A. Kruse to be Lieutenant General and Director, Defense Intelligence Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. YOUNG. I further request that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. YOUNG. Well, I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 188, Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider, U.S. Air Force, to be General and the Commander of Pacific Air Forces.

General Schneider has been serving as the Director of Staff for the Air Force since 2021. He has commanded at all levels, including a combat wing in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. General Schneider is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours, with 530 combat flight hours on multiple airframes. He has also earned numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star and the Air Medal.

We can confirm this nomination by voice vote right now. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 188, Kevin B. Schneider, to be General and the Commander of Pacific Air Forces; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, that being the case, I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 107, Lt. Gen. James W. Bierman, Jr., USMC, to be Lieutenant General and the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations for Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

General Bierman has held numerous command postings, most recently serving as the Commander of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Forces Japan. He has shown a true commitment to service in this posting, ensuring that marines remain prepared to face any future threats. General Bierman has also deployed multiple times, including to Afghanistan and Iraq, where he led marines in combat operations. His many commendations include the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device and the Legion of Merit.

We can confirm this nomination by voice vote right now. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 107, James W. Bierman, Jr., to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. YOUNG. Having heard that objection, Madam President, I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 132, Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm, U.S. Marine Corps, to be Lieutenant General and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

General Cederholm has been Deputy Commandant for Aviation since July 2022, a position he held with high distinction. He has held many operational assignments, including in U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command and as a TOPGUN Instructor Pilot. He has flown operational tours in all aircraft that the Marine Corps has to offer. General Cederholm has held numerous other assignments, including the deployments in furtherance of Operation Enduring Freedom, Joint Task Force Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom. He has also served in many Commanding Officer postings, including Commanding General of Task Force Baltic Watchtower and Commanding General of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

We can confirm this nomination by voice vote right now. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 132, Michael S. Cederholm, to be Lieutenant General and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I am going to make one further attempt.

I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 84, RADM George M. Wikoff, USN, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Fifth Fleet.

Admiral Wikoff currently serves as Acting Commander for Naval Air Forces. He began his career serving as a naval aviator, moving up to command Strike Fighter Squadron 211, Strike Fighter Squadron 122, Carrier Air Wing 3, and Carrier Strike Group 5. Among many command assignments, General Wikoff has notably served as the Commander of Strike Fighter Squadron 211, Carrier Air Wing 3, and Strike Fighter Squadron 122. His shore assignments include a posting at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, as a TOPGUN Training Officer, as Bat-

tle Director at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center in Qatar, and many other critical postings.

We can confirm this nomination by voice vote right now. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 84, RADM George M. Wikoff, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Fifth Fleet; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, just for people who are watching, as to that last nominee for Fifth Fleet Commander, you may have heard there are two carrier strike groups in the Middle East. He is the naval officer who would be in charge of all of them—right there. We could have put him in charge. It is pretty important to have a Fifth Fleet Commander ready to go.

He just objected to it. I am not sure why. Again, we are bringing these up one by one, which is what I thought my colleague from Alabama said he was good to go with.

Before I start going through my list, I just want to say, if anyone is watching—Senator ERNST and I were just talking about this—just listen to these bios. This is the best of America. This is the best of America. These men and women have been serving and sacrificing honorably for literally decades—all of them for almost 30 years at least. So when you think about it, think about the families behind these men and women. Think about their sacrifices. They are sacrificing a lot right now, and there is a lot of uncertainty. In my view, it is just a big mistake.

Again, I am with Senator TUBERVILLE on the policy of the Biden administration and Secretary Austin. We have got to fix that. But this tactic of making the military members who have nothing to do with it, of punishing them and their careers—which is what is happening, don't kid yourself—it is hurting their families. It is the wrong way to go about it, especially at this very dangerous time.

So, Madam President, I am going to call up the next promotion: VADM James W. Kilby to be U.S. Navy Admiral and Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Now, if you want to talk about a readiness issue, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations is the person who is going to be in charge, for America, of our very decrepit shipbuilding and industrial base. Everybody knows that that is a readiness problem, and I have been told by many military officers that Ad-

miral Kilby is the person—the leader—who can turn America's shipbuilding in the right direction. We have a giant readiness issue on shipbuilding. This person is the individual who can turn it around.

I have been told by many, and here is why: In over 30 years in the Navy, he commanded the USS *Russell*, which is a DDG-59, and the USS *Monterey*, a CG-61. Vice Admiral Kilby's additional sea tours were on the USS *Sampson*, a DDG-10; the USS *Philippine Sea*, a CG-58, two tours on the USS *San Jacinto*. Vice Admiral Kilby most recently served as the Deputy Commander of all U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

So he is a very important person. We could get moving right now to help our very weak industrial capacity and build ships, which everybody knows, as it relates to China, is probably one of the most important readiness issues we have to deal with. This person tonight—this leader tonight—could be confirmed to start that shipbuilding capacity for America tomorrow as the Vice CNO.

So with that, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 335, James W. Kilby, to be Admiral and Vice Chief of Naval Operations; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, the next nominee—again, we are doing them one at a time, one at a time. I thought that is what my colleague and friend from Alabama wanted. He still hasn't explained why "one at a time" is not what he wanted, but maybe he will do that.

This is regular order, by the way. For those who wonder, Well, it is not regular order, nobody knows what that means, but this is regular order because, in the Senate for 200 years, we have brought up and confirmed one- and two- and three-star Generals just like this: regular order voice votes.

So when my colleague said: I am good to go with bringing up individuals for a voice vote, for a vote, that is what we are doing. That is what we are doing. There is no explanation over there so far.

OK. Let me talk about MG Sean A. Gainey of the U.S. Army. We are trying to get him promoted to be Lieutenant General and Commanding General of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. Wow. That is a really important billet, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. So we want a leader on those issues.

Here is a little bit about Major General Gainey: 33 years—33 years—of patriotic service. He has served as Deputy Commanding General for the U.S. Army Cadet Command, the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, and on the Joint Staff as the Deputy Director for Force Protection, J8, overseeing the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization. Major General Gainey has deployed in support of Operation Joint Task Force-East and Operation Enduring Freedom. Most recently, Major General Gainey served as the Director, Joint C-UAS Office, and Director of Fires in the G3/5/7 at Headquarters of the Army.

In essence, this general is an expert not just on missile command but on fires to protect our Nation—very qualified. I hope we can confirm him right now. Our country needs him.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 47, Sean A. Gainey, to be Lieutenant General and Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command—a really important billet and a really important command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, let me move on to another Army officer and the same kind of billet that, again, really matters. This would be again on missile defense. This is Lt. Gen. Philip A. Garrant of the U.S. Space Force—I apologize. I mentioned he was in the Army. He is actually in the U.S. Space Force—to be Lieutenant General Commander, Space Systems Command, U.S. Space Force—again a really important billet.

Once again, if you look at this career, it is 29 years—29 years—of patriotic service to our country. Think about what his family has been through—multiple deployments.

Lieutenant General Garrant has served as the Commander of the 689 ARSS Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, and Vice Commander and Deputy Air Force Program Executive Officer for the Space and Missiles Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base.

By the way, these officers who are doing all of the space work—Space Force, Army, Navy—are brilliant. We don't have their resumes in terms of their schools, but I guarantee you these are physicists—brilliant, brilliant Army, Space Force, Air Force officers whom all Americans should be proud of.

Lieutenant General Garrant most recently served as Deputy Chief of Space Operations Strategy, Plans, Programs, and Requirements for the U.S. Space Force.

We can confirm him right now by an individual voice vote, Madam President. So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 293, Lt. Gen. Philip A. Garrant, U.S. Space Force, to be Lieutenant General and Commander, Space Systems Command, U.S. Space Force; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am going to bring up another important Lieutenant General. When we talk about mental health and we talk about taking care of our troops—we have got a big suicide problem in our military in Alaska—having the top Surgeon General in the military is also really important. These aren't just combat positions. These are other really important positions.

I want to talk about BG Mary V. Krueger, U.S. Army, to be Lieutenant General and the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. Brigadier General Krueger has had a 32-year career in the Army. She has served as the Supervisory Assistant for Deputy Health Affairs, Assistant Secretary for the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the Commander of U.S. Army Health Clinic, and the Division Surgeon for the 4th Infantry Division.

Again, boy, do we need that. In my State, with my troops, my military, the mental health issues are so important. Having the leader in the Army as Surgeon General will only enhance that issue. And we are to say that none of this impacts readiness?

The Brigadier General's deployments include to Tikrit, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, from 2009 to 2012. Most recently, Brigadier General Krueger served as the Commanding General of the Regional Health Command—Atlantic.

I, therefore, ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 283, Mary V. Krueger, to be Lieutenant General and the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, let me move on to another service. This is RADM Daniel Cheever, U.S. Navy, to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific.

One thing that we always think about in the military, when you think 28, 29, 30 years and the combat experience, is that the experience that they bring is just remarkable. It is, by the way, the best military in the world. And this Rear Admiral, in his career, has this in spades.

With 34 years in the Navy so far, Rear Admiral Cheever commanded Carrier Strike Group 4, Strike Fighter Squadron 147—the VFA 147. So a carrier strike group—that is commanding a carrier strike group. That is several ships around an aircraft carrier. That is giant experience, and we are making this person, this great leader, sit on the bench when our country is in peril.

Rear Admiral Cheever has extensive EUCOM and CENTCOM experience as a Naval Amphibious Liaison Element for the Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet and 17th Air Force, and as a battle director at Combined Air and Space Operations Center, U.S. Central Command.

Most recently, Rear Admiral Cheever served as the Director of Plans, Policies, and Strategy at the North American Aerospace Defense Command and Director of Policy and Strategy at U.S. Northern Command—so, again, a great warrior right here, a carrier strike group commander. Only America produces these great warriors.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 181, Daniel L. Cheever, to be Vice Admiral and Commander of the Naval Air Forces; Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, the fleet that will take on China—we have a war there; we need this officer—that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President immediately be notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, this one is special to me, since we are doing all the different services: Space Force, Navy, Army, Air Force. This is Maj. Gen. Roger Turner, U.S. Marine Corps, to be Lieutenant General and Commanding General, Third Marine Expeditionary Force and Commander of Marine Forces Japan.

The III MEF, as we call it in the Marine Corps—we only have three MEFs



in the entire Marine Corps: I MEF, II MEF, and III MEF. This is the MEF in Okinawa, forward deployed, waiting, ready to protect our interests in the Taiwan Strait, in Indo-PACOM. Right now, III MEF doesn't have a three-star general; neither does I MEF.

Again, that doesn't impact readiness? Of course, it does. Anyone who knows anything about the military knows that that impacts readiness. One of the most important fighting forces in the American military, III MEF, needs a Lieutenant General in charge.

Maj. Gen. Roger Turner has served in the Marine Corps since 1984. He most recently served as Commanding General of the First Marine Division. That is at Camp Pendleton—really important, big division, infantry division, great experience.

Previously, he served as a Commanding General of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Command and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center—incredible combat experience, ready to go if there is a Taiwan Strait crisis or another challenge in the Indo-PACOM theater. We really need this general.

For that reason, we can confirm him right now—right now—by voice vote, singular, what the Senator from Alabama has been asking for. We will see.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 191, Roger B. Turner, Jr., to be Lieutenant General and Commanding General, Third Marine Expeditionary Force, and Commander of Marine Forces Japan; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, we have got another incredible officer that we are bringing to the floor this evening for a voice vote, and I do hope my colleague from Alabama will explain to everyone out there who is watching why he has asked for individual votes, and, when given the opportunity, he is objecting to individual votes. I feel like we are in a holding pattern. But maybe he will care to explain that to us in a moment.

But, right now, I do want to focus on this really incredible officer. I have had the opportunity to work with this officer, and I will talk about the most recent time that I interacted with him.

I am bringing to the floor right now VADM Brad Cooper on his nomination to be the next Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command.

I just saw Admiral Cooper in Bahrain. The day I saw him in Bahrain was

October 7—October 7, the day that Hamas overran defenses that separated the Gaza Strip and Israel; the day that Hamas went into Israel and murdered babies, raped women, cut babies out of their mother's stomachs, killed innocent elderly men and women, abducted Americans and took them into the Gaza Strip. That is the last day that I saw Brad Cooper—October 7, the terrorist strikes against Israel.

Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command—what region is that? That is the region where Israel is located. They need fine men and women at U.S. Central Command. This is an area where we have seen great terrorist threats.

Our dear friends, the Israelis, are struggling under the weight of Iran-backed terrorist proxies. At U.S. Central Command, we need leadership.

I am bringing forward VADM Brad Cooper. I will remind the body, just as I did with General Guillot, that I passed around the Republican conference the other day a discharge petition, which means we would have a vote on VADM Brad Cooper. One of the signatures on that petition is of my colleague from Alabama. He agreed to vote on this nominee, and we are giving him the opportunity to vote on this nominee, who will be the Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command, where we have what could be World War III brewing. Our friends the Israelis need every last good man and woman that the United States has serving in these important positions.

A little bit about VADM Brad Cooper: He is the son of a career Army officer. He attended high school in Montgomery, AL. Vice Admiral Cooper joined the Navy and received his commission from the U.S. Naval Academy. He is a career surface warfare officer. He served on guided missile cruisers, guided missile destroyers, aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships, and successfully commanded both the USS *Russell* and the USS *Gettysburg*.

If anyone knows Admiral Cooper, he is a very humble man. He is very proud of the extraordinary men and women with whom he served on sea duty during his 9 deployments and 13 real-world operations all around our globe.

He has served in a variety of positions throughout his career, and he has been nominated to serve in the U.S. Central Command as their Deputy Commander.

He has been instrumental in maintaining the stability and security of the Middle East regions' maritime environment through NAVCENT. His skills and experience gained in this position at NAVCENT make him absolutely the right choice to be the Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command, and I am excited to see him confirmed.

So, Madam President, we can confirm that nomination by voice vote tonight—tonight. We will vote on this man: 9 deployments, 13 real-world operations. He is a warrior.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 196, Charles B. Cooper, II, to be Vice Admiral; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, we see another one bite the dust. It is a good thing I still have that discharge petition, and we will see Vice Admiral Cooper on the floor once again, and I hope that my colleague will choose to support him.

So I served in the Iowa Army National Guard, and I am really proud of that service. So I deployed overseas with the Iowa Army National Guard as a young Company Commander. I was the first female to command my unit. It was the same unit that my father had served in when he was a young Sergeant in the Iowa Army National Guard. He was a mechanic. He is the salt of the Earth.

And I was so proud to grow up and serve alongside some really incredible Iowa Army National Guardsmen. They worked so hard. They worked so hard on that deployment, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now, I was gone from 2003 to 2004. My daughter, she was 3 years old when I deployed, and she was nearly 5 years old when I returned home. So my daughter—again, she is a Second Lieutenant serving Active-Duty U.S. Army. And she told me—it has probably been a year ago—she had read an interesting statistic about children who have mothers that served in uniform. And she told me that that statistic was that 80 percent of the children who have mothers that wore the uniform will go into the service.

She said: Mom, I didn't have a choice. So she did; she went into the U.S. Army. And I encouraged that, and I am so proud of her for her service. Again, she is a young officer. I know she is disappointed by what she sees today—in particular, this evening.

And what I want the folks to know—and in a roundabout way I am coming to this. But all of these holds are affecting our men and women in the military. They are affecting the families of these men and women. Like I said, 80 percent of the children whose mothers wore the uniform are more likely to go in than those who didn't have a mother who served.

But right now, today, 37 percent of Active-Duty families are likely to recommend military service—37 percent. They see what is going on today.

And I have heard my colleague say we shouldn't be injecting politics into

the military and that President Biden did that and Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense, did that. But what are we doing to these military men and women? Politics are being injected right here, today. We have men and women who deserve to be promoted, to serve where their country knows they are needed.

And our military families today are saying: You know what, I don't want my kid serving in the military because they will be used as political pawns.

That is dishonorable, and it is abhorrent. So I served. Col. DAN SULLIVAN served. We understand the significance of service and being willing to lay down your life for a fellow countryman.

This next gentleman that I am bringing forward, we have something in common because this gentleman is a native of Spencer, IA. He enlisted into the Iowa Army National Guard. OK? He enlisted in 1981. He also was salt of the Earth, just like my father, who enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard.

This gentleman is LTG James J. Mingus. He has been appointed to the grade of General and nominated to be the next Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Again, he enlisted into the Iowa Army National Guard in 1981. He graduated from Winona State University in Minnesota, our neighbor to the north, and he commissioned into the Army infantry.

During more than 38 years of service, Lieutenant General Mingus has commanded at every echelon from company to brigade in addition to working in key staff positions in both Army, Special Operations Forces, and joint units. He is a decorated warfighter with extensive combat service. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom 12 times from 2001 to 2012.

Lieutenant General Mingus has distinguished himself with honor, having been awarded for meritorious achievement in a combat zone. He is a hard-working public servant who knows the needs of our soldiers and their families.

I have full confidence that he will continue to modernize the Army and maintain our highly trained and lethal force to fight and win our Nation's wars. The problem is, he can't do it if he is not serving in that position.

I firmly believe that his qualifications, record, and character—and, of course, his great home State of Iowa—make him the right nominee to serve in this important role.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: War hero Executive Calendar No. 288, James J. Mingus, to be General and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, now, I have the honor and privilege of talking about MG John W. Brennan, Jr., on his appointment to the grade of Lieutenant General in the U.S. Army and his nomination to be the Deputy Commander of U.S. Africa Command.

Major General Brennan is currently serving as Special Assistant to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. This is no paper pusher, Madam President—and I have heard that phrase.

Army Special Operations play a crucial role in competition and deterring great power war. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure this deserving officer, who earned this promotion, is confirmed to this key national security position.

The good Major General is a decorated warfighter with extensive combat service in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in the Inherent Resolve Campaign, having recently served as Commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve just last year. He distinguished himself with honor, having been awarded a Bronze Star with "V" for valor.

I firmly believe that Major General Brennan's qualifications, record, and character make him exceptionally eligible for this promotion, and I look forward to confirming him to be the Deputy Commander of U.S. Africa Command, a very important position. Again, "V" for valor.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 130, John W. Brennan, Jr., to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commander, U.S. Africa Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, another great, decorated officer—and we are going to keep going because these men and women deserve to be confirmed.

Madam President, I am going to talk now about CAPT Frank Schlereth on his appointment to the grade of Rear Admiral, lower half, in the U.S. Navy. CAPT Frank Schlereth is currently serving as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attache within the U.S. Embassy, Israel.

It is crucial at this time in history to ensure this deserving officer, who

earned this promotion, is recognized for serving in a key position to national security and regional stability. The Captain is a two-time Naval Attache, having served in Athens, Greece; and Tel-Aviv, Israel.

He has extensive experience within the Defense Intelligence Agency Directorate of Operations, having served as the Chief of Operations for the DIA, Defense Attache Service, and the East Asia Division Chief.

He is a decorated warfighter with extensive combat service, having deployed to Afghanistan in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a team leader in support of a sensitive collection mission.

Captain Schlereth distinguished himself with honor, having been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for valorous achievement in a combat zone during his deployment.

I also believe that the Captain's qualifications, record, and character make him exceptionally eligible for this appointment and promotion.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 103, Frank G. Schlereth, III, to be Rear Admiral (lower half); that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, we will proceed to COL Peter G. Hart.

I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 94, COL Peter G. Hart, to the grade of Brigadier General.

Colonel Hart is currently fulfilling a crucial role as an Army Strategist for the U.S. Central Command. As a 23-year combat veteran and retired Lieutenant Colonel of our great U.S. Army, I am proud to stand up for this valiant officer who has answered the selfless call to service and earned this promotion in the U.S. Army.

Again, I want to talk about making these individuals political pawns in the grand scheme. So the VFW had recently done a survey. And they did surveys in every State and overseas territory of their members.

These are veterans. Polls indicate there is a growing wedge between the veteran community and the colleagues on this side of the aisle and "political decisions that harm the troops will affect the decisions of BFW members in upcoming elections."

People don't like men and women who are used as political pawns, especially those who are sworn to be apolitical. Those are the men and women

who serve in uniform. There is a growing division. It will continue to grow wider.

So, therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Colonel Peter G. Hart to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Army, under Executive Calendar No. 94; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I just want to talk about an issue I just heard about from two officers just today on this issue of readiness, on this issue of maybe this whole episode is creating a "Fat Leonard" scandal 2.0 that is like I said earlier when the Navy had some of their top officers kind of wiped out due to corruption. They lost a whole generation of senior officers with specific fleet experience, which we are still actually dealing with.

What we are starting to see here—I am hearing it; I have a lot of contacts; I have my colleagues whom I have served with. We are starting to see that here. Imagine we are facing a really, really dangerous world, that we have Senate politics driving military officers—our best—I mean, are you listening to these bios? All 30, 35 years of incredible combat experience. And we are driving them out.

As Senator GRAHAM said, some are going to be timed out, eventually. A couple are hitting that already. If you get selected and you don't pin on by a certain time, you are gone. Think about how bitter you would be.

But here is the other thing. Just today, I heard it, too—I am not going to name them—Navy officers who are saying: You know, I think I am done with this. I did 28 years. I did seven deployments. My family sacrificed. And I am sitting here being held up, when my country needs me, on an issue I have nothing to do with—and, by the way, Navy, submarine commanders, aircraft carrier commanders, pilots—these guys can go out and make huge money. So I am hearing it. I am hearing it.

We—not we—some of us are driving our senior Admirals and Generals out. They are saying: I am done with this. I can serve my country another way. I can make a ton of money in the private sector. My family deserves it.

That is happening. That is happening. And it is wrong. It is wrong. We all know it is wrong. By the way, if we are here like a year from now and we are still dealing with this and we look back, we are like, holy cow, look at

these great combat veterans with all this experience, and they left us; they left us because we forced them out. We are going to look back at this episode and just be stunned at what a national security suicide mission this became.

By the way, I am so honored to be standing shoulder to shoulder, literally, here on the Senate floor with my good friend and colleague Senator ERNST. You know, we have the Army and Marine Corps represented right here on the floor. This is a joint op. It is a joint op. Protecting our troops. Fighting for our troops. That is what marines and soldiers do well. This is a joint op. And we are going to stay here until our list is done. Because you know what? There are a lot of people who sacrifice so much for this country.

And to my colleague from Alabama, you still haven't answered the question—this is regular order, by the way. All these noms have been voted out of committee. I am sure you voted for most of them. I voted for almost all of them. Regular order, out of committee. And again, I am quoting you: I am not blocking anyone from getting confirmed. I am not blocking a single vote. If they want those votes on these nominees one at a time, I am all for it, and we will probably vote for them.

That is the quote from my colleague from Alabama. So what is up with that? We are right here. One at a time. One at a time. Regular order.

This is regular order, by the way, because for 200 years, the Senate has voted for nominees by voice vote at one- and two- and three-star General levels. It is different for the four-star. But this is regular order.

So my colleague hasn't answered the question yet. It would be good to hear why because we are putting time and effort into it. I actually thought he was going to come down and say, Hey, you know what? You guys did what I mentioned, one at a time, each one, regular order.

So, what, are you going to make us vote on a Brigadier General with a Silver Star twice? That probably has never happened in U.S. history. I don't know. It would be good to get an answer to that question.

By the way, on Iowa, what a great story from my colleague. You know, I was doing some training in Alaska many years ago, and the Iowa National Guard was out there. These guys were huge, big. Got a picture, sent it back to Senator ERNST. Corn-fed. You don't want to mess with the Iowa National Guard, I would say that for sure.

So, Madam President, let's get back to this. Maybe my colleague will have a change of heart here. Maybe he will get back to folks—whoa, maybe we should. And, by the way, we have the perfect opportunity for someone in a really, really important billet. And this is for Maj. Gen. David Iverson, U.S. Air Force, to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commander of U.S. Forces, Korea. U.S. Forces, Korea is really, really important. It is run by a

four-star General. And this would be the Deputy Commander.

By the way, the Korean Peninsula could go any day. Tomorrow, we could be at war in Korea. I am a big Korean war history buff. Do you know what happened in 1950 in the Korean war? We had civilian and senior military leaders in America who did not care about readiness. Sound familiar? And when the North Koreans launched their surprise invasion, American soldiers by the thousands were killed because there was no readiness. We don't want that to happen again on the Korean Peninsula. We don't want it to happen. So this guy needs to be confirmed.

And look at his resume: Maj. Gen. David Iverson most recently served as the Vice Director for the Joint Force Development on the Joint Staff. His over 32 years in the military, served in a variety of flying duties to include evaluator instructor, flight commander, chief of weapons, director of operations, commander at the squadron level. He has commanded at the flight squadron, twice at the wing level. That is huge. Incredible military experience. Two wing commands. He also served as a congressional legislative liaison in the 609th Air Operations Center command in Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Iverson is a command pilot with over 5,400 hours.

America, you should be proud of these people. And I know you all are. He has 5,400 hours, including 1,500 combat hours. And we are making this guy sit. We are making him sit—1,500 combat hours. F-15, TF30. I mean—Madam President, we should confirm this great American right now. And we have the opportunity to do it.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 187, David R. Iverson, to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commander, U.S. Forces Korea—Commander, Combined Air Component Command; United Nations Command, Commander, Combined Air Command, Combined Forces Command, Korea, and Commander, 7th U.S. Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, well, that was another downgrade of readiness for America right there.

Madam President, let me go into another very, very impressive military member. We don't talk about this part of our military that much; but, boy, oh boy, is it important. And this is for Maj. Gen. Andrew Gebara, of the U.S. Air Force, to be promoted to Lieutenant General and Deputy Chief of Staff

for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

Let me run that by you again: strategic deterrence with nukes and nuclear integration.

I would say that is a pretty darned important billet.

Let's hear about Major General Gebara's 32-year career. He has served as the Commander of the 325th Weapons Squadron, Eighth Air Force, and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center. Major General Gebara is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flight hours.

There you go. The best, most experienced military members in the world, right here, sitting on the sidelines, not in the game. On the bench. And we can change that right now; 46 combat air sorties, and everything—get this—from the A-10 to the B-2. This guy is a stud.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Major General Gebara most recently served as Special Assistant to the Director of Staff of the Headquarters of the U.S. Air Force. And we can confirm this nomination by a voice vote right now.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 51, Andrew J. Gebara, to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, headquarters: U.S. Air Force; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, again, strategic nuclear deterrence. Pretty darned important. I guess he is going to have to sit on the sidelines for longer.

I want to go now to another element of our military, and that is Special Operations. And this is an opportunity for a really storied military leader, Lt. Gen. James Slife, U.S. Air Force, to be four-star General and Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. Again, you have the Chiefs of Staff—those are the Joint Chiefs—and then they have the Vice Chiefs. The Vice Chiefs are so important because they run the enterprise of the Air Force. This General will essentially run the Air Force in so many ways. Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. This is one of the most important nominations of the evening.

Let's hear about Lieutenant General Slife. Again, 33-year career. Putting all his time, effort—I am sure his family's effort—dedicated patriot to America. Has served most of his career in aviation special operations. Senator ERNST knows a lot about that. He has held

commands at the Air Force Special Operations Command, 1st Special Operations Wing, and 27th Special Operations Group—33 years. Imagine what this patriot has done to protect America. He probably can't talk about half of it. He has deployed extensively over three decades in support of combat operations all over the world, most recently in Afghanistan. Lieutenant General Slife most recently served as Deputy Chief of Operations for Headquarters, Air Force.

This General, right now, if we just have one Senator say "good to go," will be confirmed as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 338, James C. Slife to be General and Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. This next one, I believe, is an empty billet. I am pretty sure. I have to double-check my math here.

This is Shoshana Chatfield to be Vice Admiral and U.S. Military Representative to NATO. NATO. There is a lot going on in NATO right now, and we don't have this Vice Admiral in her position as a Military Representative to NATO? That is not impacting readiness?

Let's hear about Rear Admiral Chatfield's 35-year naval career. She is a pilot. She has commanded HC-5 and, upon its disestablishment, was the Commanding Officer of HSC-25, the Island Knights. She subsequently commanded a Joint Provisional Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, was a Type Wing Commander of the HSC Wing in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the Commander of the Joint Region Marianas.

Think about that experience. Think about that experience. We need people understanding INDOPACOM, Marianas, to take on China.

Operationally, she has flown the SH-3, the CH-46 Delta, the MH-60 Sierra, and deployed in helicopter detachments to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf, supporting carrier strike groups and amphibious-ready group operations—carrier strike groups and amphibious-ready strike groups. Those are Marine amphibious-ready groups. She has done both, INDOPACOM and in the Middle East.

Now she is going to be a three-star Representative Admiral at NATO, and we are keeping her on the bench. We

could confirm her right now. Look at that experience—35 years as a naval aviator.

She most recently served as the President of the Naval War College, so she is brilliant as well. Sitting on the bench.

Madam President, we need to confirm her now; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 90, Shoshana S. Chatfield to be Vice Admiral and U.S. Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, let's go directly to our great U.S. Navy. This is James P. Downey to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command.

Again, we all know that the Navy is the critical service. They are all critical, but when it comes to China, we have some catching up to do. This is a critical command billet.

Let's hear about Rear Admiral Downey, James P. Downey. He has served in the Navy for 36 years.

I would like to—Senator ERNST, maybe we just need to add up the experience that we are talking about tonight. Everybody is at least 30 years. It is like over 1,000 years. It makes you proud as an American. It makes me sure darn proud.

Thank you, Rear Admiral Downey, for your 36 years of service to our great Nation and great U.S. Navy.

He served as the Commander of the Navy Regional Maintenance Center—boy, do we need expertise in maintenance for our Navy—and as the Program Executive Officer for U.S. Aircraft Carriers. Wow, that is great experience, and we need that every day.

He most recently served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition. Additional operational assignments include Intelligence Briefing Officer to the Commander and Chief, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea, and multiple deployments in the North Atlantic, Baltic, Arctic Circle—probably up in my neck of the woods in Alaska—and the Indo-Pacific. Incredible experience here.

We need to promote him, and we can do it right now with a voice vote, right here. We are bringing up individual nominees, individual votes, as my colleague from Alabama requested, so let's do it.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of

the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 113, James P. Downey to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, let's go back to my beloved Marine Corps. I love the Marine Corps. I mean, I love all the services, but I really love the Marine Corps.

Madam President, this is another critical element of the Marine Corps. Of course, everybody thinks about infantry with the marines, but our aviation component is so important and so darn good. Marine Corps aviation has made Americans proud for decades and decades and decades.

We have Bradford J. Gering to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps Aviation Section at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

Maj. Gen. Bradford Gering has served in the Marine Corps since 1988. He most recently served as the Commanding General of I MEF.

Just so everybody knows, I MEF, which I talked about earlier, is the I Marine Expeditionary Force, commonly known in the Marine Corps as the Imperial MEF, probably the best combined warfighting machine in the U.S. military. I am a little biased, but it is true.

He is a I MEF Commander. In the Marine Corps, you don't get any better than that. You don't get any more experienced than that. And he has had multiple deployments. He is a combat veteran with unbelievable experience, and he is sitting on the bench.

We need to get him in the fight, and we can do it right now. We can confirm this great American patriot by voice vote right now. Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 111, Bradford J. Gering to be Lieutenant General and Deputy Commandant, Aviation Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, we have another opportunity to vote on another outstanding officer. This one is COL Scott D. Wilkinson, and he has been promoted to the grade of Brigadier General.

As an Army veteran myself, I know and I understand the importance of recognizing this deserving officer who earned his promotion in the U.S. Army. He is a decorated warfighter. He distinguished himself with honor for meritorious achievement in a combat zone during his deployment.

As a Captain—a young O3 is what we call them in the Army—Colonel Wilkinson provided precision close air support over a 6-hour period using night vision goggles, with zero illumination, in a complex urban environment, enabling the assault and exfiltration of a combined joint task force under heavy enemy fire.

I am proud to be here on this floor as well standing shoulder to shoulder with my Marine Corps friend, Col. DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska.

You can read through this little, brief description of COL Scott D. Wilkinson.

For those of us who have served and have been part of a team and have been deployed, we understand the significance of having close air support.

I served as a Transportation Company Commander when I deployed, and I will tell you that having close air support—knowing they were a phone call away—always made my drivers and me feel a lot better about things. I know Colonel SULLIVAN, as an infantryman, also understands what it is to have that close air support and how important those men and women overhead are during battle.

So, COL Scott D. Wilkinson, I am really glad to give you close air support tonight. Those of us who have worked on a team understand how significant it is to have one another's back and make sure these men and women are protected.

With this close air support, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: COL Scott D. Wilkinson to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Army under Executive Calendar No. 94; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, we are going to move next to COL Joseph W. Wortham II.

I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 94, COL Joseph W. Wortham II to the grade of Brigadier General.

Again, we are seeing a pattern. We have Colonel Wortham. He is a decorated warfighter and, again, as a Captain, as an O3, his brave and decisive actions saved the life of a severely wounded American and defeated a large enemy force in Iraq in 2005.

My colleague Colonel SULLIVAN, Senator SULLIVAN from Alaska—we have been talking about what it is to serve and the way these heroes have reacted in combat. Because of Colonel Wortham's actions in combat, he saved the life of a fellow countryman, saved the life of an individual willing to lay down his life for his country.

Colonel Wortham was willing to do the same. He saved the life of a severely wounded American, and he defeated a large enemy force in Iraq in 2005. Again, he was part of an incredible team. He didn't turn his back on his teammate; he saved his life. It is crucial to ensure that this deserving officer, who earned this promotion, is afforded the opportunity to be recognized.

Colonel Wortham, again, is part of a glorious team and was first commissioned into the Army in 1996 through Auburn University's Reserve Officer Training Corps.

During his 25 years of service, he participated in operations in Egypt, Israel, and Lebanon, as well as combat operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. His understanding of Kurdish culture and training in the Turkish language proved essential for his repeated deployments to the Kurdish regions of Iraq and Syria.

I firmly believe that Colonel Wortham's qualifications, record, and character make him exceptionally eligible for this promotion, and by the fact that he went through Auburn University's ROTC Program.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: War hero who saved the life of a fellow soldier, COL Joseph W. Wortham II, to be Brigadier General in the United States Army under Executive Calendar No. 94; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. And the objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. Next, Madam President, we will move on to CAPT Thomas A. Donovan—CAPT Thomas A. Donovan, for appointment to Rear Admiral (lower half). Captain Donovan is currently serving as the Executive Officer to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I know Captain Donovan, and I know of his service. I will not go into details tonight on this floor. I will explain it

to Members who are on this floor, off the floor, if they would like to talk about Captain Donovan.

I truly believe that we must stand up for the security and protection of our Nation, and I am proud to recognize this deserving officer, who earned this promotion, and highlight his selfless call to serve.

I firmly believe that Captain Donovan's qualifications, record, and character make him exceptionally eligible for this appointment and promotion.

Now, again, I know Captain Donovan. I know him quite well. There may be mumbblings over some of these younger officers. We have spent just a brief time talking about them on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Those who are out watching on C-SPAN, or maybe in clips tomorrow, will understand why some of these presentations are very brief.

For those in this Chamber that don't understand why these presentations are very brief, they shouldn't be here objecting to these nominations. I will let that sink in.

OK, CAPT Thomas A. Donovan.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: CAPT Thomas A. Donovan to be Rear Admiral (lower half) in the Navy, under Executive Calendar No. 97; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Ms. ERNST. And I am very sorry to hear that.

Again, we have got another very short presentation here. I will have to explain it to my colleagues that maybe haven't served why they are brief.

Madam President, I call to the floor Executive Calendar No. 97, CAPT Joshua Lasky, for appointment to Rear Admiral (lower half).

As a 23-year combat veteran myself and a retired Lieutenant Colonel of our great U.S. Army, I am proud to stand up for this valiant officer who has answered the selfless call to service and earned this promotion in the U.S. Navy.

I firmly believe that Captain Lasky's qualifications, record, and character make him exceptionally eligible for this promotion. And, again, I will have to visit with folks off the floor to explain more about Captain Lasky. He is fully deserving of this promotion, and I am very sorry to acknowledge that he also will probably be objected to—one more hero that will be objected to this evening.

So not only have we seen Senator SCHUMER dragging his feet on these nominations, but tonight we have had

the exceptional opportunity—I think we have had maybe 40 of these nominations brought forward, but we are still dragging our feet on these. We are voting on them one by one, one by one, one by one—just as our colleague asked, one by one. These are men and women of honor. They are sworn to uphold the Constitution, the very Constitution that my colleague is saying he is protecting. They are sworn to uphold, and they would do it with their blood. Some of these men have done it with their blood. I am waiting.

So, Madam President, we can confirm this nomination by voice vote right here, tonight, individually—individually brought up, just as my colleague has asked.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: CAPT Joshua Lasky to be Rear Admiral (lower half) in the Navy under Executive Calendar No. 97; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am still—I think we are both, Senator ERNST and I. We are still just kind of confused on the “one by one,” as my colleague and friend—he is my friend. So I mean that sincerely. He said: I am all for it if nominee comes up one at a time. I am all for it. That is a quote. That is what we are doing—one at a time, one by one, as Senator ERNST has said.

And some of these, you know, if you serve in the military long enough, you know these people personally. And the next nominee I want to talk about I know quite well, Kenneth Wilsbach. He is a four-star General right now, and he is in charge of the Pacific Air Forces—credible experience. General Wilsbach will move in to be the U.S. Air Force Commander of Air Combat Command, one of the top billets in the U.S. Air Force—a guy with incredible experience, with a wonderful wife and a wonderful family.

He served as the Alaska Command Commander. That is the subcomponent command under INDOPACOM and NORTHCOM for Alaska—a three-star General in charge of all forces in Alaska. So I know him. He is an exceptional patriot and so deserving of this promotion.

And, by the way, it has nothing to do with the policy dispute that we actually agree on, all my colleagues here. We think what Secretary Austin did to light this fire was not helpful at all. The civilian military leadership over at the Pentagon—that is where I do

agree with my colleague from Alabama. Certainly, there is more focus on nonwarfighting issues—the civilians, not the uniformed ones.

But let's go back to General Wilsbach, a 38-year career in the Air Force—38 years. I know this guy, a great family. He is a patriot warrior. He has commanded a fighter squad and operation group, two wings, two numbered Air Forces, and held various staff assignments, including Director of Operations, Combined Air Operations Center; Director of Operations U.S. Central Command.

Central Command—that is the Middle East. I was a staff officer out there, for a year and a half, to our CENTCOM Commander many years ago.

So General Wilsbach has great Middle East experience, which we need today, but he also has great INDOPACOM experience. Right now, he is the Commander of Pacific Air Forces—right now. He is doing a great job. If there is going to be a war with China, this is the guy who knows it. I mean, you can't ask for better experience.

Let's continue with General Wilsbach. He is a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours of flying—and we are going to put him on a bench—in multiple aircrafts, primarily F-15Cs, F16Cs, MC-12s, and F-22 Alphas. We have a lot of those in Alaska. And he has flown 71 combat missions in Operation Northern Watch, Southern Watch, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

As I mentioned, General Wilsbach currently serves as the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces, the Air Component Commander of U.S. INDOPACOM, and the Executive Director of the Pacific Air Combat Operations staff.

A great patriot, whom we need to confirm right now—we can do it. We can do it right now by voice vote—regular order, by the way, regular order. Don't say it is not because it is, and we are doing them individually, which is what was asked.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 198, Kenneth S. Wilsbach, to be Commander of U.S. Air Combat Command, one of the most important commands in the U.S. Air Force—in the U.S. military, let's face it—that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, let me talk about another really important billet that I know a lot about, given that a lot of its assets are in



Alaska, and, again, this is such an important billet to not leave without a leader. This will be for Heath A. Collins to be Lieutenant General and the Director of the Missile Defense Agency.

What does MDA do? What does the Missile Defense Agency do? Oh, it just protects America from all incoming missiles. Huh, that is not important. That is what the Missile Defense Agency does. Maj. Gen. Heath Collins, U.S. Air Force, needs to be promoted to be the head of the MDA.

So in Alaska, we call ourselves the cornerstone of missile defense. All the ground-based missile interceptors that protect the whole country are in Alaska, at Fort Greely. All the radar systems that essentially can track anything coming from North Korea, Iran, it is all in Alaska. We protect everywhere: Iowa, Alabama, Rhode Island, Florida. That is Alaska. We protect the whole darn Nation, our great warriors up there, and the Missile Defense Agency is in charge of overseeing all of it. So it is pretty darn important, especially with Iran wanting to lob missiles all over the world.

Let's talk about Maj. Gen. Heath Collins. Again, with a 30-year Air Force career, he served as a program executive officer for fighters and bombers, System Program Director for the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent Program, Deputy Director for Infrared Space Systems Directorate and the Remote Sensing Systems Directorate, and Commander of Space Based Infrared System Space Squadron.

Now, I am not going to repeat what I just said, but he is obviously incredibly smart. Think about all that he has commanded and the technological elements of his experience to protect America. Almost every billet he has had has been about protecting America. He is perfectly qualified to be the Director of the Missile Defense Agency.

He recently served as the Program Executive for the ground-based weapons systems for the Missile Defense Agency, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

He probably loves the Crimson Tide, or maybe I should say Auburn. I don't want to get in trouble in that regard with my colleague here.

So, again, America needs the Director of Missile Defense—like, hello. So let us do it. Let us do it right now. Here is the opportunity. The Missile Defense Agency is really, really important. My state knows a lot about it.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 237, Heath A. Collins, to be Lieutenant General and Director of the Missile Defense Agency; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, by the way, thank you for presiding tonight. It is important, what we are doing, and we always need people, and all the staff. It is getting a little late here. So we appreciate it. This is important for our country, and maybe we are going to get a change of heart from my colleague at a certain point because I am going to turn now to the Navy. I got a bunch of nominations that relate to the Navy.

Now, I have been very critical of the Biden administration. The President's budget the last 3 years has shrunk the Army, shrunk the Navy, shrunk the Marine Corps; right? That is the wrong message to send to Xi Jinping and Putin right now. But we do need these leaders here. And, by the way, a lot of leaders are frustrated with the Biden administration, but they are professionals. So they don't say anything. They are apolitical. They are not involved in this dispute that is riling up their promotions.

But let me just talk about a really important member of the Navy, and I happen to know a lot about it since I serve on the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy.

This is the nomination of Yvette M. Davids to be Vice Admiral and Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Now, as I mentioned, I have served on the Board of the Naval Academy since I got here. One of the biggest honors of my life was when Senator McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, asked me to sit on that Board in his stead. And he told me: DAN, I went there. My dad went there. My grandpa went there. This is really important.

So I pretty much make every Board meeting. I take it very seriously, and I will tell you this: This is one of the best, if not the best—sorry to my colleague from Rhode Island—military academy, but college in the United States. I mean, especially now that we are seeing this. Look, I went to Harvard, and I am so embarrassed by that place that I don't even like admitting it, what is happening right now on the campus there, anti-Semitism, weak leadership.

The Naval Academy, our service academies are fantastic. They are not perfect, but they do such a great job. But they need leadership. And I have gotten to know the other Naval Academy Superintendents—fantastic leaders. Right now, we don't have one. The billet is empty. We have an acting. Actually, he is acting because he is getting ready to go to the Seventh Fleet, but my colleague from Alabama just didn't allow him to go to the Seventh Fleet. So the Acting Superintendent of the Naval Academy should have been out to the Seventh Fleet.

Let us look at Yvette Davids' bio—so impressive. She is a Rear Admiral right

now, with 34 years in the Navy. She commanded the USS *Curts*, deploying to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and the USS *Bunker Hill*, serving as the Air Defense Commander for the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group. Think how impressive this is. Her most recent operational assignment was as Commander of the Nimitz Strike Group. She was a Commander of a carrier strike group in the Carrier Strike Group 11. That is the ultimate in American power.

You can't teach that in 2 years. It takes 30 years. She can go teach Naval Academy students right now—the next leaders of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy—and she is sitting on the bench.

Her flag assignments include Senior Military Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs at the State Department, Carrier Strike Group Command, Chief of Staff, U.S. Southern Command, and the Director of the Navy's Learning to Action Board drive team.

Rear Admiral Davids is currently the Acting Commander for Naval Surface Force for the U.S. Pacific Fleet—an incredible bio. The Naval Academy—I know it because I am on the Board. We want her to get there. We certainly want her to get there in time for the Army-Navy game so the U.S. Naval Academy can beat Army badly. Sorry, my colleagues from the Army. We got to have a little fun here tonight.

So let us do it right now, by voice vote, for this great patriot.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 192, Yvette M. Davids, to be Vice Admiral and Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is noted.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, let us continue with the Navy—again, such an important service. They are all important. But in a big throw-down with China, we have to have a stronger Navy, a bigger Navy, a more lethal Navy, and this next nominee is going to be that person—RADM Brendan R. McLane, U.S. Navy, to be Vice Admiral and Naval Surface Forces Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

What does that mean? That is the Surface Commander for all U.S. naval forces in the INDOPACOM theater, who would be in charge if we had a contingency with China. That is pretty darn important.

So let us hear about Rear Admiral McLane's 33-year Navy career.

Again, are you noticing something? It is 33, 34, 35—General Wilsbach, 38 years. Patriots—and now they are like: Wait. Why am I stuck? Why are they going after my career? It is something I have nothing to do with.

It is wrong. We all know it is wrong. It is wrong.

In Rear Admiral McLane's 33-year naval career, he has served as the Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 50—a huge deal—commanded Task Force 55 and Coalition Task Force 152, U.S. Fifth Fleet. Additionally, he served aboard the USS *Lewis B. Puller*, the USS *Vicksburg*, the USS *Moosbrugger*, Destroyer Squadron 14, the USS *Simpson*. Jeez, look at all of these commands and deployments.

While in command of the USS *Kearny*, his ship won the Battle "E" and Battenberg Cup and deployed with the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group for the U.S. Fifth Fleet. By the way, the "Ike" carrier strike group is in the Middle East right now.

In major command, he served as Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 50, commanded Task Force 55 and Coalition Task Force 152, U.S. Fifth Fleet—again, the Middle East.

Most recently, Rear Admiral McLane served as the 60th Commander of Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

The amount of experience we are hearing tonight that we are not letting go fight and protect our nation—it makes you humble, by the way, when you hear about all these great patriots, but it sure makes me frustrated. They are on the bench.

But let us try and get them off the bench. We can confirm this nominee by voice vote right now.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 193, Brendan R. McLane, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Naval Surface Forces; Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am going to talk about one more Navy officer. We have a number to go. I am going to do this quick. This is Christopher S. Gray to be Vice Admiral and Commander of Navy Installations Command. He has got a great resume, a 34-year Navy career.

Rear Admiral Gray has been the Commanding Officer of the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron before reporting as Operations Officer aboard

the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*, where he conducted back-to-back deployments to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

At sea, Gray has served in operational assignments with Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadrons and a flag aide to the Commander in the U.S. Second Fleet, Striking Fleet Atlantic.

More recently, Rear Admiral Gray served as the Commander of the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Region on June 30, 2020.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 195, Christopher S. Gray, to be Vice Admiral and Commander, Navy Installations Command; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I would ask that my colleagues yield so that I can ask unanimous consent to prepare for tomorrow's session.

Ms. ERNST. I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 367; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Herro Mustafa Garg, of California, 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 Arab Republic of Egypt.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Franchetti nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions 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.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REED. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of my Republican colleagues.

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

Mr. REED. Madam President, I yield the floor, and I yield back to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, our next nomination is a fine officer serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Our colleague from Alaska, Col. DAN SULLIVAN, also serves in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. I will read a little bit about this gentleman, and we will take an individual vote on the floor this evening, I am hoping, because this gentleman does deserve to be promoted and placed into his next position.

So this gentleman is Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Anderson IV, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, to be Lieutenant General and Commander of Marine Forces Reserves, Commander Marine Forces, South.

So here is a little bit about the good General. The Major General most recently served as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. He does have some prior experience as well in serving as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, but Major General Anderson also served in a marine aviation logistics squadron. So it is interesting that the Executive Calendar number for Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Anderson is 248 as I also—not in the Marines, but I served in an aviation support battalion, which is a logistics battalion, supporting aviation, the 248th Aviation Support Battalion. This gentleman has