

staffed and focused senior leadership, able to advise the President while also giving the best guidance to their commanders. For 4 days this week, within arm's reach of a war, they didn't have it because of one Senator.

The solution is clear, and it has been clear since day one: The Senator from Alabama must remove his hold on our admirals and generals. We wouldn't be in this position if it weren't for him. He can stop this today if he wants to. If he continues to refuse, it is just too dangerous to wait for him to do the right thing. There is a proposal for the Senate to make a temporary change that will allow us to vote on the bulk of these nominees at once. It is designed to put our national security ahead of all else by addressing the dangerous circumstance these holds have put our military in.

Now, I have talked with many of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—about this fact, and I encourage everyone to give it serious thought. At what George Will called “the most dangerous U.S. moment since World War II,” the Senate must consider whether it will allow the U.S. military to be without hundreds of confirmed admirals and generals and to be just one illness or accident away from once again having a service branch without senior leadership because, to me, that is a pretty clear choice.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ADM. LISA M. FRANCHETTI

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the nomination of ADM Lisa Franchetti to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations.

As some of my colleagues know, I was 17 years old when I raised my right hand to take the oath to defend our country and Constitution, Navy ROTC midshipman at Ohio State at the height of the Vietnam war. We had no women in our Navy ROTC unit at Ohio State or at any other Big Ten college, no women in the ROTC units. In the service academies, no women served in those roles, training roles. How things have changed. How things have changed. We are here today to actually put a really strong marker on that change and to applaud it.

I spent, all in, 23 years in Active and Reserve duty, and I am the son of a Navy chief petty officer, the nephew of a Navy chief petty officer, and the nephew of a deceased 19-year-old Navy veteran who was killed in a kamikaze attack in World War II on a carrier in the Pacific. My grandmother is a Gold Star mother. In my family, we bleed Navy blue.

I can tell you firsthand, folks, that we have before us a terrific, terrific nominee to serve as Chief of Naval Operations. She spent practically her whole life in the Navy, serving our country around the world in places including Italy, South Korea, as well as a number of posts here closer to home.

Admiral Franchetti's career has spanned nearly every theater of en-

gagement, every level of service—commanding ships, squadrons, strike groups, and fleet levels. She has been a commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, deputy commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and Acting Chief of Naval Operations, just to name a few. What a career. What a career. For her tremendous work, she has received almost two dozen prestigious awards and recognitions. She has even received some of the awards multiple times. What an impressive servant.

Admiral Franchetti has been making our country proud for not just a couple of years but for decades, from the day she signed up for the Navy ROTC Program at Northwestern University to this day.

The Senate stands poised to confirm her as Chief of Naval Operations, where, again, she will become the first woman to serve in that role and the first woman to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I know she will continue her outstanding work as she breaks barriers for the Navy and for women everywhere.

So, today, I am here to urge my colleagues to join me and others to confirm ADM Lisa Franchetti to serve as the U.S. Navy's Chief of Naval Operations.

I would just say to the admiral, to her husband Jim, and to their daughter Isabelle: We have two words in the Navy that we use when we want to applaud service, and they are “Bravo Zulu.” I can think of no woman more deserving of those two words.

As a human being—for my colleagues who had an opportunity to meet with her, you could just tell, you could see and feel why she has received the kinds of promotions and the kind of recognition and the kind of responsibility. She is one terrific human being as well. So I am honored to stand here on her behalf.

I would also say that we have about 300 other men and women—senior officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps—who are ready to be promoted, deserve to be promoted, and are not being promoted because we are not confirming them. Today, we have a chance to do something about it, and we can start with Admiral Franchetti. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 5 minutes and that, following my remarks, Senator BLUMENTHAL be allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for three military leaders whom we will soon be voting on: ADM Lisa Franchetti, Gen. David Allvin, and Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney. These are some of the finest leaders our Nation has to offer, and America is stronger because of their service and their sacrifice.

I am particularly proud to support the nomination of ADM Lisa Franchetti to be the next Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Franchetti brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position. She has served in leadership roles at every level throughout the Navy, both ashore and at sea, and with postings around the globe. She has served as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea; commander of Carrier Strike Group 9; commander of Carrier Strike Group 15; commander of U.S. Sixth Fleet; commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and director for strategy, plans, and policy on the Joint Staff, among many other operational roles. She has worked her way up the ranks in the U.S. Navy. She has commanded at sea. She has accepted and has excelled at every challenge that is presented to her. She is superbly prepared to be the Chief of Naval Operations.

As the current Vice Chief and now as the Acting Chief of Naval Operations, she brings an important perspective on the key challenges for the Navy. Her understanding of the Joint Force and the Navy's ever-expanding role within it will be critical.

I want to acknowledge the historic nature of Admiral Franchetti's nomination. If confirmed, she will be the first woman to serve as CNO and the first woman on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I am glad we have reached this moment.

At every step of her career, Admiral Franchetti has been a trailblazer and a team builder who focuses on the mission, leads by example, and gets the job done. She is an inspiration to many and someone who will always put the security of our Nation and all who defend it first—first before herself, first before anything else. Those are the qualities that make an outstanding officer and an outstanding leader.

Indeed, the Navy faces a dangerous and evolving global security environment. Threats from Russia, Iran, North Korea, and violent extremist groups remain persistent, and the Navy has an important role to play in addressing them. But the clear, pacing challenge for our naval forces is China. In the Indo-Pacific and in seas and ports around the world, the U.S. Navy will continue to be the first line of deterrence and defense against China's expanding global ambitions.

I am confident that Admiral Franchetti has the skills and experience to meet this challenge and provide the Nation's sailors, their families, and Navy civilian employees with the leadership they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote for Admiral Franchetti's nomination.

NOMINATION OF GEN. DAVID W. ALLVIN

Also, we will be considering later on the nomination of Gen. David Allvin to be the next Chief of Staff for the Air Force. General Allvin is highly qualified for this role. As the current Vice Chief of the Air Force, he has helped lead the service through a critical period of modernization, and he is well positioned to continue that progress.

General Allvin is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has commanded at the squadron and wing levels, including the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and he has held major staff assignments and served on the Joint Staff.

General Allvin has served as commanding general, NATO Air Training Command—Afghanistan; commander of the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Afghanistan; commander of the 618th Air and Space Operations Center; and as vice director of strategy, plans, and policy of the Joint Staff.

This is a gentleman, an officer who has been in combat, who knows the rigors and demands of combat, and, like Admiral Franchetti, places his mission and his Air Force members ahead of any personal ambition. Prior to his current assignment, he was director of strategy, plans, and policy, J-5, on the Joint Staff. He is a command pilot who has more than 4,600 hours in over 30 aircraft, including 800 flight test hours and 100 hours flying in combat.

If confirmed, General Allvin will lead at a momentous time. Airpower is key to our strategic competition with China and other adversaries, and the entire Joint Force relies on the capabilities of the Air Force every day.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote for General Allvin.

NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY

Finally, I am proud to support the nomination of Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney to be promoted to four-star general and to be the Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. General Mahoney's promotion is well deserved and urgently needed.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, has been in the hospital this week after a serious medical emergency. I am wishing him a speedy recovery, and my thoughts and all of our thoughts are with his family at this difficult moment. He is a selfless servant of the marines who has given his all. At this moment, our prayers go out to General Smith and his family.

General Mahoney is a Marine fighter pilot. He has 5,000 hours of flight time. He has commanded at every level. He served on joint duty with other services. He has led with distinction and with diligence, again, with selfless service to his marines and to the Nation.

He is serving currently as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources. He is an excellent candidate

for Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Connecticut.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague from Rhode Island and join him in urging confirmation of these highly qualified and experienced men and women to positions of great trust and responsibility in our military, but they are just a fraction of the total whom we have an obligation to confirm.

Rather than looking at the transcript of my remarks today, I urge my colleagues to view or read the record of last night. There were 3 to 4 hours of eloquence and intransigence—eloquence on the part of a number of our colleagues, including Senator GRAHAM, Senator YOUNG, Senator ERNST, and Senator SULLIVAN, seeking to persuade one Member of the U.S. Senate whose intransigence is preventing the Nation from having the benefit of military leadership that it needs and deserves.

Again and again and again, Senator TUBERVILLE objected to confirmation of individual nominees for the highest and most responsible position in our U.S. military. Make no mistake, he said repeatedly that he would permit those nominees to go forward as long as they were considered individually, and our colleagues gave him the opportunity to allow them to go forward. But he has continued to change the goalposts, to alter the conditions of approving their confirmation, simply because of a personal preference on policy that those nominees had nothing to do with. Our colleagues made that point repeatedly, as well as the damage to our national security that is resulting from his intransigence. Our military readiness is undermined. Morale is reduced. Recruitment is severely damaged. The health and well-being of military families, including, most prominently, the Commandant of the Marine Corps—our prayers are with him. Our hearts are with his family. We hope for General Smith's speedy recovery.

But, right now, our military is lacking the leadership that it needs in key positions around the world, and it is impacting not only their professional abilities but also their personal lives: kids going to school, selling homes. We are making life more difficult for men and women who serve and sacrifice to keep us safe.

As one of our colleagues said last night—and I am quoting—I think I am done with this. I hope this body will be done with the intransigence of the Senator from Alabama and move forward with a resolution. I am proud to say I participated in drafting it. It is narrowly tailored to fit this situation, applying only to this session, for key positions in our military that are essential to confirm, seeking to surmount the obstructionism that has gridlocked

and paralyzed this body in moving forward.

It is time to reform the rule. That time is, in fact, overdue. The regrettable illness of our Commandant, the threats around the world, in Israel and Ukraine, make it no longer a matter of choice. We must move forward with this draft resolution, and I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance of doing so.

As one of our colleagues on the other side said last night, this intransigence, this resistance to allowing the body to move forward and confirm these nominees is going to "wreck" the military. That is not some hypothetical fear; it is a real prospect that we need to avoid. The precedent of an individual Senator using a policy preference to stop confirmation is one that will potentially wreck this body's credibility and ability to move forward with key nominees for a variety of positions in the military and outside it.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 334, Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033: to be Admiral.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033: to be Admiral, Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT)