

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 329 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rounds
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Butler	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Sinema
Carper	Markey	Smith
Casey	McConnell	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cornyn	Merkley	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Moran	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Heinrich	Risch	Young

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Ernst	Mullin
Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Rubio
Britt	Hawley	Schmitt
Budd	Hoeben	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Collins	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	Marshall	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 37, and the motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 352.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 352, Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Christopher A. Coons.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, December 5, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING GARY PETERSEN

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay one final tribute to Gary Petersen, a close friend and devoted public servant who recently passed away. Gary's devotion to the Tri-Cities was unparalleled, with his work covering everything from our national security, to environmental cleanup, to the growing and evolving missions of the Hanford Site and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory—PNNL—in my home State of Washington.

This certainly isn't the first time I have spoken in honor of Gary. He was a Washingtonian through and through, raised in Okanogan County before serving in the military and eventually attending my alma mater, Washington State University. He went on to work for more than five decades in the Tri-Cities before retiring in 2017, and over the years, I had the great pleasure of working with Gary time and time again.

In 1965, Gary landed his first job out of college at Battelle, and he couldn't have had better timing—Battelle had just won a contract to operate a major research and development laboratory at the Hanford Site, which is now

known as PNNL. Gary was truly in on the ground floor, working in communications and handling other tasks including leading tours of the Hanford Site, which eventually became his specialty. Whether he was showing around new employees, elected officials, or foreign dignitaries, Gary gave a tour of the sprawling 580-square-mile site that is still unsurpassed.

Afterward, Gary briefly worked in Nevada for the Department of Energy's—DOE—predecessor—the Atomic Energy Commission—before returning to Washington to work for Westinghouse on the new Fast Flux Test Facility project. Gary further honed his nuclear expertise later working for the Washington Public Power Supply System, which is now Energy Northwest. He went on to rejoin Battelle to work at PNNL, eventually working on key international nuclear safety programs established following the Chernobyl disaster. Eventually, Gary was recruited to volunteer on a part-time basis at the Tri-City Development Council. In true Gary fashion, this quickly became a full-time commitment and he spent the rest of his career advocating on behalf of the Tri-Cities—in Washington, DC, Olympia, and everywhere in between until his retirement in 2017.

One project that Gary spearheaded before his retirement resulted in DOE returning 1,614 acres of unused Hanford land just north of Richland to the Tri-Cities for economic development. His advocacy—whether it was for small local businesses, historical preservation efforts, or Washington State interests in the Columbia River Treaty—was unmatched. And the impact of his work has only become more evident in the last few years: The progress on Hanford cleanup, the preservation of Hanford's B reactor, the expansion of workforce safety programs at the Hanford Site, and the Tri-Cities' growing role in the clean energy future are all tied to Gary's decades of effort.

Gary was always quick with a story and a smile. He loved to share the account of how Hanford came to be, from the beginning with Colonel Franklin Matthias selecting a location north of Richland for the Manhattan Project's plutonium plant, to the site's growth to meet our country's needs during the Cold War, to the Hanford cleanup mission today. He would explain how Hanford's growth transformed Richland and the Tri-Cities, shaping everything from the region's architecture to the day-to-day life of its residents. He loved getting into the nitty-gritty of the Federal budgeting and the appropriations process and thrilled at telling anyone who would listen about the six research alligators that were at one point kept at the Hanford Site and escaped in the middle of a storm—five of them safely returned and one proudly displayed at a sports shop in downtown Richland for years. Through it all, Gary was as committed and passionate as they come. It is no wonder that

Washington State University's Hanford History Project asked him to contribute to its oral history collection; I am glad he did so that generations to come can enjoy and learn from Gary's firsthand accounts.

Washington State has benefited tremendously from Gary's vision and his drive to improve the Tri-Cities and the Hanford Site. He was an important partner to me and one of the first to recognize all that the region had to offer. Gary was a force of nature, whose vision and work will be felt for generations. Whether he was walking the halls of Congress or leading a tour of the B reactor, he was a fountain of knowledge and energy. Gary leaves behind a tremendous legacy, and I am among the countless individuals who are grateful for his mentorship and friendship. His memory will be cherished, and he will be dearly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ROJAS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Iowans recall the derecho that tore through parts of our State in 2020. The storm hit alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, when communities faced unprecedented challenges, including stalled school meal programs. Such unforeseen events can disrupt communities. Individuals like Michael Rojas of Polk County step up—often on a moment's notice and without pause—to keep that from happening.

Mr. Rojas helped lead FEMA's response to the 2020 derecho, putting to work his expertise from a prior post with Iowa's Habitat for Humanity, where he dealt with tornado and flood damage. During the pandemic, he spearheaded critical plans to address food insecurity in our State. Today, he is a disaster program officer with Volunteer Iowa, which facilitates opportunities for local nonprofits and nearby residents to engage in projects with impacts close to home.

Iowans who cross paths with Mr. Rojas undoubtedly know his selflessness, ingenuity, and efficacy. By honoring Mr. Rojas on a national scale with its Excellence in Disaster Services Leadership Award, AmeriCorps seems to have hit the nail on the head. I congratulate Mr. Rojas on this well-earned recognition and thank him for his continued, exemplary service to Iowa.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant informa-

tion is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-84, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.0 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-84

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$2.0 billion.
Total \$2.0 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Australia has requested to buy articles and services in support of the Trilateral AUKUS Pillar I program.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
None.

Non-MDE: Included are training devices, personnel training, planning, and Non-Recurring Engineering (NRE) services; support equipment; special tools; training software and courseware; design; supply chain and industrial base support; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; test and trials support; studies and surveys; other related elements of engineering and repair services for associated equipment and program support; and other related elements of logistic and program support. U.S. training of private Australian industry personnel will occur only after explicitly authorized by the U.S. Department of State under U.S. law.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-BTQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-FBG.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 1, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—AUKUS Training and Training Devices

The Government of Australia has requested to buy articles and services in sup-

port of the Trilateral AUKUS Pillar I program. Included are training devices, personnel training, planning, and Non-Recurring Engineering (NRE) services; support equipment; special tools; training software/and courseware; design; supply chain and industrial base support; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; test and trials support; studies and surveys; other related elements of engineering, and repair services for associated equipment and program support; and other related elements of logistic and program support. U.S. training of private Australian industry personnel will occur only after explicitly authorized by the U.S. Department of State under U.S. law. The estimated total program cost is \$2.0 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats by providing an effective combatant deterrent capability to protect maritime interests and infrastructure in support of its strategic mission. The acquisition will lay the groundwork for the Australia/United Kingdom/United States (AUKUS) trilateral agreement. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Huntington Ingalls Industries, Newport News, VA; General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton, CT; and Systems Planning Analysis, Alexandria, VA. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale requires the assignment of approximately seventy (70) additional U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Australia for a duration of approximately three (3) years to support in-person training, equipment familiarization, and onsite engineering and maintenance of simulation and training devices.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter