

In the span of a few hours, our sense of safety and sanctuary was ripped apart by bullets born out of hate and fear—an issue, Mr. President, you know very well and have engaged on many sad occasions.

Two years ago, in Georgia, eight people lost their lives—eight people loved by their families, their friends, by their children. They should never become numbers or statistics—eight souls, eight people, with their own successes and struggles, their hopes and dreams. We speak their names: Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng.

My heart aches for these Georgians and for their families, for whom these wounds still fester. The comfort provided by a family is still not enough to fill the empty seat at the dinner table or those times when a family member, out of routine, picks up the phone to dial and remembers in the moment that there is nobody on the other end of that call.

As a pastor, I believe in the sacred worth of every human being. I believe that we are a mixture of dust and divinity, of sod and sky, beauty and possibility. That is why I ask now that everyone who is here will join me in a moment of silence. Let us remember these eight Georgians and pray for their families.

(Moment of silence.)

God, in Your mercy remember them and strengthen us to do the work. Amen.

Importantly, I must mention, this attack was meant to harm Georgia's Asian-American community, and especially women of Asian descent. Unfortunately, this awful act that happened in Georgia is not isolated but, rather, part of the same trend of growing hate and violence which has caused pain to so many of us, especially members of the AAPI community.

In recent years, anti-Asian hate crimes have increased significantly—more than 300 percent, according to media reports. And, at the same time, we have seen acts of hate rise against our Jewish brothers and sisters; against our Muslim friends and neighbors; yes, against the LGBTQ-plus community and our trans brothers and sisters; and against the sense of safety our students have felt at our historically Black colleges and universities.

So I think back to how Georgians charted a path forward for our Nation 2 years ago. Two years ago, we came together and reminded each other that the only way to face the future is to love one another, to be respectful of our different histories, while focused on our shared future.

Georgia's greatest son, that great American, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said it best. He said:

We are tied in a single garment of destiny, caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

That terrible act of violence we witnessed on March 16, 2021, ought to remind us that we all have a stake in each other's well-being, that it is our duty to stay committed to a peace that recognizes that we are in this together.

So I want to say to my AAPI sisters and brothers, I want to say to all of my neighbors that I see you, and I will continue to stand with you against hate and against violence.

So let us continue working together to stop Asian hate, to stop the scapegoating that often emerges, sadly, in political speech, and to create what Dr. King called the beloved community. It is a community where everybody, no matter their skin color, their ethnicity, their sexual orientation, their religious background, or if they claim no religious tradition at all, can live a life of fulfillment and joy without the fear of facing hate and unspeakable violence.

Let's keep doing the work.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the confirmation of four qualified, exemplary public servants who will now serve as district court judges in California.

One month ago, we celebrated a landmark achievement of the Biden Presidency: 100 Federal judges confirmed by the Senate. That is worthy of being celebrated by all Americans because, from the moment President Biden entered office, he set out to nominate candidates with a diverse range of legal and life experience. We sought to work together to build a Federal bench that looks like the America that it serves.

With the confirmations of Judge Daniel Calabretta, Ms. Araceli Martinez-Olguin, Judge James Simmons, Jr., and Judge Andrew Schopler, we are once again fulfilling that commitment and putting forth the best of the great State of California and the best that our country has to offer.

Now, earlier this year, we confirmed Judge Daniel Calabretta to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Calabretta is an exceptional nominee with the qualifications to serve in the Eastern District with distinction. He earned his B.A. from Princeton University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Since then, his nearly two-decade legal career has been defined by a commitment to serving the public's interests. Before he was appointed to the California Superior Court in 2019, his career spanned from the California Department of Justice to the U.S. Court

of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and from Sacramento, CA, to the Supreme Court. In each and every role, he has demonstrated a keen legal mind and a clear commitment to justice.

But beyond his exceptional legal credentials, he brings a valuable diversity of life experience to the Eastern District, a court with one of the highest average per-judge workloads in the country.

Judge Calabretta's confirmation makes him the first openly gay man to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, bringing a voice and experience not yet represented in such a role. But I am confident, with his experience, his acumen, and his judgments, that he will be a tremendous asset for the millions of people that he will now serve.

Now, 2 weeks ago, this body confirmed Araceli Martinez-Olguin to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Born in Mexico City but raised in Northern California, Ms. Martinez-Olguin received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University. She then returned home to California to work as a kindergarten teacher before attending the UC Berkeley School of Law.

She spent her career representing those who all too often are overlooked by the legal system: immigrants, low-income women, and women of color. Ms. Martinez-Olguin has experience at community legal service organizations, as well as the Department of Education and the National Immigration Law Center.

She has litigated at every level of our Federal courts in States across the country and has established herself as a respected leader and expert in the legal community. Her commitment to fighting for the greater good, her decency, and her experience will serve the Northern District well, and I thank my colleagues for supporting her nomination.

Now, just last week, we confirmed Judge James Simmons, Jr., to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Born in Inglewood, CA, Judge Simmons was raised by a single mother in the proud working-class and very diverse community of South Los Angeles.

Judge Simmons was the first person in his family to graduate from college when he earned his undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and then, later, his J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law.

Soon after, he became a deputy city attorney in San Diego before working his way up to serve as a deputy district attorney for San Diego County for over a decade. In 2017, Judge Simmons was appointed to the Superior Court of California for San Diego County.

Looking back, in my conversation with him, I had the opportunity to ask him a specific question: why he wanted to become a prosecutor as opposed to working with defendants. And Judge Simmons very articulately said, well,

it is because that is where he could do the most good. And he explained why. He felt it was important for people like him to bring their experiences and backgrounds to the role of prosecutor, someone with an understanding for defendants with backgrounds similar to his own. Now Judge Simmons will bring his good work to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

Finally, just last week, we also confirmed Judge Andrew Schopler to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Schopler earned his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. He then briefly worked as a public defender before joining a criminal defense law firm.

In 2004, he earned his spot as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of California, where he served until 2016, eventually rising to the position of deputy section chief of the Major Frauds and Special Prosecutions Unit. Given his exemplary work ethic, he was then selected to serve as magistrate judge in the Southern District.

But his service to our country extends beyond the bench. In 2014, at the age of 43, Judge Schopler chose to join the California National Guard as a judge advocate. He worked to obtain an age and medical waiver to serve. In 2018, he deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. He earned the Bronze Star for his service and was promoted to the rank of major.

He has committed his career to protecting our freedoms truly, at home and abroad, and I am proud this body came together to support his confirmation.

I am so grateful for all four of these newly confirmed judges' willingness to serve our country, and I know California and the country will be a stronger, more just place because of them and because of their service.

With that, I yield the floor.

VOTE ON CHAUDHARY NOMINATION

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

Mr. PADILLA. 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boozman	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Capito	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Sullivan
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Thune
Cooms	Merkley	Tillis
Cornyn	Moran	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Grassley	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Heinrich	Romney	

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lee	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Feinstein	McConnell
Cruz	Fetterman	Young

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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 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. 18, Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position).

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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 Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Ricketts
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Cooms	Markey	Thune
Cornyn	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cramer	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Ernst	Murray	Welch
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	

NAYS—26

Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Britt	Johnson	Schmitt
Budd	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	Mullin	Vance
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Feinstein	McConnell
Cruz	Fetterman	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 26.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Taylor-Kale nomination be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader; further, that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 16; that following the cloture vote on the Clarke nomination and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume legislative session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to