

that. The American people have every right to expect secure borders, along with safe streets and stable prices. They don't have time for distraction, and neither do Senate Republicans.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota. MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH AND MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, May is a month dedicated to honoring our military. We have Armed Forces Day, which we celebrated this past Saturday; Memorial Day, which will be observed on Monday; and the entire month is observed as Military Appreciation Month.

Ronald Reagan is reported to have said:

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. The Marines don't have that problem.

I would just expand on that a little bit and say that our military members don't have to ask that question and don't have that problem. If you want to see people living a life of purpose, just look to the men and women of the U.S. military—the men and women who get up every day ready to defend our freedom, to the point of laying down their lives if necessary.

Many of our military members enter right after high school or college. At an age when their counterparts are thinking about graduations and internships and taking the first steps toward careers, these men and women take a different path. They embrace a life of regimentation and rollcalls, of tough physical and mental demands, a life that asks them to forgo comfort for sacrifice, up to and including the sacrifice of their lives, and they do it willingly.

Most of us don't often see the sacrifices our military men and women make, so it can be easy for us to forget, as we go about our daily lives, that those lives are only possible because these men and women spend their lives working to defend our country.

During this Military Appreciation Month, my thoughts turn to those South Dakotans serving in our Armed Forces and particularly to the men and women of the South Dakota National Guard and our airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Our South Dakota military members represent the very best of our State, and I am grateful every day for their service and sacrifice.

I am proud to report that the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base was named the best bomb wing in Air Force Global Strike Command during the past year. I am excited that Ellsworth broke ground this spring on a new weapons generation facility—part of the construction to prepare the base to become the first home of the B-21 Raider.

I am also proud that the Black Hills region, home to Ellsworth and the South Dakota National Guard's Camp Rapid, was named to the 2024 Class of Great American Defense Communities. South Dakotans know and value the sacrifices made by our military men and women, and I am tremendously proud of how the Black Hills region has worked to support our airmen and National Guard members.

A discussion of Military Appreciation Month would not be complete without mentioning our military families. It is not just our men and women in uniform who serve and sacrifice; it is their families as well.

Life as a military spouse or as a son or daughter of a military member is often challenging. There are frequent moves and deployments, and most of all, there is the knowledge that one day your husband or wife, your mom or your dad could be asked to give up their life for their country. So, as we honor our military members this month, it is right that we honor and remember the sacrifices of their families as well.

In his 1941 proclamation of Bill of Rights Day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said:

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.

As we go about our lives in peace and safety, it can be all too easy to forget that that peace and safety have been purchased at a price, that they have been purchased with the blood of the men and women who have laid down their lives to secure them. On this Monday above all, on Memorial Day, we should resolve to remember—to remember and to recommit ourselves to living lives worthy of their sacrifice.

May God take to Himself all those who have fallen in the service of our

country, and may He comfort their families, and may He bless and protect the men and women of the U.S. military. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

### NOMINATION OF MELISSA GRIFFIN DALTON

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for Ms. Melissa Dalton's nomination to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Ms. Dalton is an exceptionally qualified leader with a long and distinguished career in service to the United States. She has more than two decades of experience in defense and intelligence policy, including an extensive background in Department of Defense strategy, policy, operations, processes, and workforce issues. Ms. Dalton currently serves as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs and served previously by performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

The Armed Services Committee held a nomination hearing for Ms. Dalton 4 months ago, on January 23, and it is critical that we approve her nomination now.

If confirmed, Ms. Dalton will face a number of pressing challenges for the Air Force. The service has operated at a high tempo for the past two decades, supporting around-the-clock operations in the Middle East and around the world. This mission has strained Air Force personnel and aged the combat aircraft fleet more quickly than anticipated. This high "op-tempo" also challenged Air Force leaders to adequately invest in modernization efforts. With China posing new, unprecedented challenges to our airpower in the Indo-Pacific and with emerging technologies like hypersonic weapons and uncrewed aerial systems, or UAS, creating new threats around the world, the Air Force must adapt quickly to stay ahead.

In particular, the Air Force must continue to strengthen and improve its acquisition system. In order to field new capabilities to match the speed of technological change, the next Under Secretary will need to take steps to ensure that the Air Force has a secure and reliable industrial base and a trained and qualified workforce. At her confirmation hearing, Ms. Dalton pledged her immediate, unwavering attention to these issues. This was an important commitment and one that I support.

If confirmed, Ms. Dalton will help lead the Air Force at a critical moment as we continue our long-term strategic competition with China and Russia. This will require thoughtful, resolute leadership with a deep understanding of the issues. Throughout her career, Ms. Dalton has developed and implemented just these sorts of leading-edge defense policies, and she reemphasized her commitment to them during her confirmation hearing.

Ms. Dalton is an outstanding nominee to serve as Under Secretary of the

Air Force, and I am proud to support her nomination.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes and confirm this great leader.

With that, 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.

#### VOTE ON DALTON NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT Pro Tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dalton nomination?

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 181 Ex.]

##### YEAS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carpenter	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Cramer	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Hassan	Peters	

##### NAYS—39

Barrasso	Ernst	Ricketts
Blackburn	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Romney
Braun	Grassley	Rubio
Britt	Hawley	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Paul	Wicker

#### NOT VOTING—5

Hagerty	Menendez	Warren
Manchin	Mullin	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). 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 actions.

The Senator from California.

#### BORDER ACT OF 2024

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, when I was a kid growing up, the last thing I thought I would do when I grew up was to be involved with government and politics. But when I returned home from college, I came home to California to find hateful TV ads warning of an "invasion" at our border. These were in support of a ballot measure demonizing immigrant families and communities like mine.

A generation of Latinos in California grew up knowing that officials who were elected to represent us were actually more than happy to scapegoat our families as the root cause of the State's challenges. But instead of just putting our heads down and waiting for the political tides to turn, my generation decided to get involved, and we started a movement that put more people from our communities into positions of power.

Now, three decades later, the State of California is not just home to more immigrants than any other State in the Nation; we also represent the largest economy of any State in the Nation. That is not a coincidence.

But, sadly, today, we are also seeing some of the same hateful rhetoric once again. And when I hear it, I feel it, and I think about my children and a whole new generation of Latinos across the country that see leaders of the Republican Party demonizing immigrants and people who look like us.

Yes. The Republican Presidential nominee warned that immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our Nation," echoing rhetoric from Nazi Germany. That is happening.

I have had to come down to this Chamber earlier this year, just a couple of months ago, to object to one of our colleagues seeking to declare an "invasion at our southern border." That is the moment that we are in, and it is an undeniable part of the context in which the bill that we are going to be voting on soon was written.

The proposal before us was initially supposed to be a concession, a ransom to be paid to Republicans to pass urgent and critical aid to Ukraine—not my words, theirs. The proposal was 3 months ago.

But guess what? We passed the foreign aid. It was the right thing to do. And so I can't help but ask: What is this concession for now? Because it surely cannot be the new starting point for negotiating immigration reform.

I am disappointed because this bill contains some of the same tried-and-failed policies that would actually make the situation worse at the southern border. It includes arbitrary border closures and practically eliminates the right to seek asylum for people fleeing for their safety or for their very lives.

Now, many of us have acknowledged—both sides of the aisle in both

formal conversations and informal conversations—that one of the biggest reasons that so many people come to the southern border is because it is so hard to come to the United States legally. So I look at this bill. And guess what. It fails to address the root causes of migration or to establish more lawful pathways.

And it is not just what is in the bill that troubles me; it is what is not in the bill. If enacted, this bill would fail to provide relief for a single Dreamer, for a single farmworker, or a single essential worker or long-term resident of the United States who has been here for years—in some cases decades—working, paying taxes, contributing to the strength of our communities and our country and the success of our economy.

So the Senate is voting on this package now for a second time? But still no votes on the Dream Act—which, by the way, does enjoy bipartisan support? It is hard to swallow.

And there is more. We hear that there are some extreme Executive actions coming soon. Now, for as much as has been accomplished by this body, this Chamber has also served as a backdrop for some of the most vile rhetoric in our Nation's history. The same hatred that met Irish and Italian immigrants coming through Ellis Island permeated these walls to help pass the Chinese Exclusion Act, before spreading west to villainize immigrants from Mexico and Latin America at our southern border.

And every time political leaders villainize immigrants, communities like mine feel the effects. Just ask any Latino kid who has been told to go back to where they came from. Ask anyone speaking Spanish in America who has been told to speak English. Ask any Asian American who was harassed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colleagues, what chapter of our Nation's history are we choosing to write today? I ask because, yes, there will come a time when history judges us. And what will you say? Will you say that you worked to defend the American dream for future generations? Or settled and denied opportunity for future generations?

Today, countless immigrants and children of immigrants will ask whether Republicans and Democrats will leave them behind once again. Colleagues, I urge you to vote no today and to be more thoughtful in how we address border safety.

I urge you to join me in staying true to our values in modernizing our immigration system. I urge you to join me today in doing what is right for Dreamers, farmworkers, and other long-term undocumented members of our communities. They deserve better, and we—we—should be better than this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, it has been more than 100 days since Republicans killed a border deal that they