

people who are involved—to the Democrats and Republicans who are involved—and ask them about how helpful or harmful has been the involvement of Ali Mayorkas, he has been very much involved in those conversations. What I have heard off the record from our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, is that he has actually played a constructive role and a helpful role, and I hope that he will continue to do that.

If I had a magic wand, with one fell swoop, I would do one thing to help address illegal immigration: I would enact full comprehensive immigration reform. Next Monday, I will be one of the speakers at the annual State of Delaware Chamber of Commerce dinner. It is something I have done for, gosh, dozens of years now. But when I make customer calls, when I visit customers on calls to businesses large and small around our country, I always ask them three questions: How are you doing; how are we doing—this is as to the congressional delegation with Senator COONS, Congresswoman BLUNT ROCHESTER, and myself—how are we doing; and what can we do to help?

Do you know what most people say and what most businesses say? Our real challenge is just getting people to come to work. That is what I hear from all kinds of businesses, large and small. We just need people to come to work, people who have a work ethic and people who are trainable and we can count on to show up every day.

There are a lot of people who like to come to this country and work. They don't necessarily want to stay here and live here and become citizens here. They just want to have the opportunity to provide a better life for their folks and make a contribution to this country.

So rather than simply laying all of these problems that we have at the border at the foot of one person—is the Secretary responsible for some of it? Sure. So are we. One of the things that we could do is to adopt comprehensive immigration reform, which the business community in my State has asked us to do for years; and across the country, they have asked us to do that for years. If we did just that one thing, that would make a difference.

The Department of Homeland Security has a bunch of missions, some of them more critical than others. One of those is to protect our Nation from harm, whether the threat is a natural disaster or an act of terror. This is a difficult mission under any circumstances, and it is one that requires strong, principled leadership; and I think we get that from Ali Mayorkas.

Moreover, our border has seen significant changes in demographics and in the populations of those seeking asylum. The people coming across our border who are trying to get into this country look a whole lot different than in the first delegations I led down there as a U.S. Senator, as a junior Senator in this body. It has changed a lot, and

we need to change the ways that we are trying to stem it.

I will close with this: I think most of us here—and I know my colleague who is offering this unanimous consent request—are people of faith. We are people of faith. We might be Democrats and Republicans, but we are also people of faith, for the most part. We might be Protestant; we might Catholic; we might be Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, whatever, but we are people of faith.

I was raised in Beckley, WV—a little coal mining town. My mom used to take my sister and me to church, God, every Sunday morning, every Sunday night, every Wednesday night, and most Thursday nights. She was interested in two things: one, in making sure we understood the Golden Rule to treat other people the way we want to be treated and, two, that we had actually read Matthew 25 and actually internalized it in that it is our obligation, our moral obligation, to the least of these. Remember there, in the Scripture, in Matthew 25, it says: When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was thirsty, did you give me to drink? When I was naked, did you clothe me?

It also says this: When I was a stranger in your land, did you welcome me? Think about that. When I was a stranger in your land, did you welcome me? We have a moral obligation to welcome a stranger. We don't have a moral obligation to let millions of people come into our country without permission and to stay here. That is not part of Matthew 25. But there is a moral obligation that we need to look out for the least of these. I hope we will keep that in the back of our minds as we go forward.

The last thing I would say—and I have said this so many times that my colleagues are sick of hearing it—is that bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions. I am a Democrat who was raised by two Republican parents. I have always believed that the way to get things done is to work together across the aisle. I am encouraged by the negotiations that are underway that involve several of our colleagues on the Democrat and Republican sides in addressing what is going on at the border. I have talked to both Democrats and Republicans who have been part of those conversations and negotiations, and I am encouraged that progress is being made. I think, rather than just pointing fingers at one another, we should actually build on that progress and hasten the day that we can actually begin, in a serious way, in a comprehensive way, resolving this major challenge to our country.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I certainly greatly appreciate the Senator from Delaware's remarks, and I agree with him on so many things he talked about. I agree that we are a land of opportunity and that we should help

those in need. You know, personally, I have led humanitarian medical mission trips around the world. The United States spends \$80 billion a year through the USAID programs, Food for Peace, and polio vaccinations. We promote economic trade.

I am afraid my friends across the aisle see this as an immigration issue. If we open up the gates, 158 million people worldwide would like to come into the country right now, to come into our country—158 million people. That is according to a 2018 Gallup poll. There are 158 million people from around the world who would flood our gates right now if given the opportunity.

I have always supported legal immigration—legal immigration—but I see this today totally as a national security issue. That is what I am afraid of. That is what I am concerned about when the FBI Director says all the lights are blinking. When we see 100,000 people—Americans, young Americans mostly—dying from fentanyl poisoning every year; when we have 1.7 million “got-aways,” where we don't know who they are or where they are—hundreds of known terrorists, aliens of interest, tens of thousands of aliens of interest—this is a national security issue to us.

Secretary Mayorkas took an oath. He took an oath to enforce the laws of the land, to make sure that we had a secure border, and we don't have that right now. That is why we need to fire Secretary Mayorkas today, and we need to let the White House know that we are going to have a new person in there next year as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 375.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read nomination of Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 375, Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, January 9, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 and 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES DICKINSON

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize GEN James Henry Dickinson of the U.S. Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. General Dickinson is retiring from Active service after serving for 3 years as the commander of United States Space Command—and after more than 37 years of service in the U.S. Army.

General Dickinson was born in Boulder, CO, and raised in Estes Park, CO. He is a graduate of Colorado State University, having earned a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1985. General Dickinson also holds an M.S. in operations research and systems analysis from the Colorado School of Mines and an M.A. in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

General Dickinson has commanded at every level in the U.S. Army, from platoon to combatant command, and is the senior space and missile defense officer at the Department of Defense. General Dickinson previously also served as commanding general of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Shafter, HI; the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss, TX; the U.S. Army

Space and Missile Defense Command; and Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

General Dickinson has dedicated his life to the service of our Nation and to furthering our country's ability to deter aggression in space. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of General Dickinson, his wife Angela and their children Deborah, Henry, Olivia, and Joseph. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in civilian life.●

RECOGNIZING GRANNY'S IOWA MARKET

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Granny's Iowa Market of Clarion, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Dawn and Tim Hamilton founded Granny's Iowa Market in Clarion, IA, in 2018 to provide fresh foods, produce, and locally sourced products to the community. Granny's Iowa Market carries meat, cheese, baked goods, and wines from Iowa. Most of the foods at Granny's Iowa Market are from local producers, with a handful of products coming from Wisconsin and South Dakota. In addition to food, they offer soaps, lotions, candles, and greeting cards from other small businesses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Granny's Iowa Market served an important role as a main grocer in the Clarion community. Dawn and Tim are no strangers to running their own small business. They opened Granny's Mixing Bowl, a bakery in Clarion, out of their home in 2007. They continue to operate both Granny's Iowa Market and Granny's Mixing Bowl.

In addition to owning Granny's Iowa Market, Dawn and Tim Hamilton are actively involved in the Clarion community. They are engaged in Clarion Cub Scout Pack 4112 and Clarion Boy Scout Troop 1047, with Dawn and Tim serving on committees for both units. Tim currently serves as Cubmaster for Pack 4112, after he previously served as the Scoutmaster for Troop 1047. Being a member of the Scouts is integral to the Hamilton family. Their son Bryce earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and four grandchildren have entered the Scouts, with their fifth grandson planning to join. In addition to serving the community, Tim served our country in the Iowa Air National Guard. Granny's Iowa Market is a proud member of the Clarion Development Alliance, and in 2024, they celebrated their sixth business anniversary.

Granny's Iowa Market's commitment to providing the Clarion community with quality groceries and local products is clear. I want to congratulate

Dawn and Tim Hamilton for their dedication to giving back and serving the Clarion community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL MICHAEL EDWARDS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Paul Michael Edwards, a fall 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work he has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Paul recently graduated from the University of Central Florida, where he completed a master's degree in legal studies with a minor in criminal justice. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Paul, and I look forward to hearing of his successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNY PERMETTER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Jenny Permetter, a summer and fall 2023 intern with my Orlando office, for the hard work she has done for my office and the people of Florida.

Jenny is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, where she completed a bachelor's degree in psychology. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Jenny, and I look forward to hearing of her successes in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MAGGIE AMADEI

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, our men and women in uniform embody a special kind of courage. No one displays that better than Captain Maggie Amadei of Enterprise.

A veteran of Desert Storm and the Iraq War, Maggie served multiple combat aviation missions in the Middle East. Not only is Maggie a combat veteran, but she is also a Gold Star Spouse. Maggie and her husband Ben met while both serving in the Army. They deployed as part of the 101st Airborne Division and celebrated their first wedding anniversary while in Iraq. But 2 months after, Ben's helicopter was shot down, and he lost his life for this country. But this tragedy didn't destroy Maggie's desire to serve. She served in the military for 12 years and moved to the Wiregrass.

She immediately found ways to continue using her aviation skills and experience. And her work is having impact across the globe. Maggie manages operations for the Flight School Training Support Services Program at GDOT in Daleville. It is the largest rotary wing flight simulation facility in the world.

For 15 years, Maggie has helped provide over 1.5 million flight hours to pilots, making sure our pilots are ready.