

now represents, has had two major floods—in January 2021 and the winter of 2023. Kentucky and Missouri both saw major flooding in July 2022 and Florida, in April 2023. Vermont, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois were each hit in July 2023. In December 2023, we saw flooding along the east coast States from Florida to Maine. Remember, these are just the floods that caused over \$1 billion in damage.

When we consider, once again, who lives in these areas most affected, we see why we need to keep the NFIP affordable for working families. Sixty-two percent of all NFIP policies are in parishes and counties where the median household income is below the national average of about \$54,000 a year. Once more, these are not billionaires' beach homes.

Hard-working people are uncertain whether they will be able to stay in their homes because of a decision made by a bureaucracy with zero input from Congress. Now we are seeing the consequences of that decision, with an estimated 900,000 people—one-fifth of all policies—dropping coverage because it is unaffordable. When that happens, the pool of policyholders shrinks, and the program enters what is called an actuarial death spiral. That is where the risk is put on fewer people, which raises the premiums even more, which make those who are, relatively speaking, least at risk drop their policies, which concentrates it more—once more, a death spiral, setting up the program for collapse.

Congress needs to do something before it is too late. First, we need to step back and ask how we got into this situation. Why did FEMA implement Risk Rating 2.0? Why inject this much uncertainty into the system? Congress never passed a bill requiring that FEMA implement this.

President Biden could have stopped it with the stroke of a pen. We have done it in the past. In 2019, my office worked with the Trump administration to successfully delay implementation because of concerns over the methodology of how FEMA was calculating rates. This time, even though the concerns remain, the Biden administration would not work with us.

Since the Biden administration is allowing this to happen, Congress must step in. My team has worked on a bipartisan solution that will roll back Risk Rating 2.0 and make flood insurance affordable and accountable again.

Let me say to my colleagues: Let's talk about it. Let's have a conversation. Every single Member of this body has constituents who rely on the National Flood Insurance Program. We owe it to them to find a solution to a system that isn't working for Americans who were promised a safety net in case of a flood. Let's get to work.

TRIBUTE TO MARY MOODY JOHNSON

Madam President, as you know, as Members of Congress, we are fortunate to have highly motivated and produc-

tive younger people working for us. They are essential for our country to meet its goals.

I rise today to honor a member of my team. For 7 years, I have been fortunate to work with one of the best—my health policy director, Mary Moody Johnson.

On Capitol Hill, a lot of our staff come and go pretty quickly, so when you have someone who stays with you 7 years, who is loyal to the things you are loyal to, dedicated, working so hard for so long, you feel a special attachment.

After almost a decade on Capitol Hill—7 of which she spent in my office serving the people of Louisiana, first in my DC office and then on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—Mary is moving on to a new professional challenge at the end of this week. It is bittersweet.

She has played an incredible role in the success of my office in lowering the costs of healthcare and serving the Americans we represent. Just as an example, if someone says, "My gosh, we made a lot of progress in terms of mental health reform," Mary Moody is one of those who are critical to that. If somebody has a surprise medical bill which they appeal and get reversed, that was Mary Moody—now Mary Moody Johnson—taking 3 years to work with other offices and with stakeholders to come up with a bill which passed both Houses of Congress and was signed into law. It should have been called the Mary Moody Johnson End Surprise Medical Billing, as far as I am concerned. She worked long hours with long spreadsheets, and she got a bill that has saved maybe as many as 1 million surprise medical bills a month.

On a personal note, it is a privilege to be her friend. She came into my office when she was 24. She had a grandmother from Louisiana and convinced me she had deep ties to our State, so I hired her. It turns out she was from Texas. I never let her forget that. I especially like that she married a man from Ponchatoula, LA. I was able to attend their wedding in the Marigny section of New Orleans a year and a half ago.

She is now ready to move on. I get that. At some point, it is not what you do for the rest of your life; it is what you do next. Both because of her marriage and other reasons—her commitment to her church—she is ready to try something else.

I am thankful for all she has done. I am sure our paths will cross again. I am excited to see what happens next. We all wish her the best as she moves on. She will be missed by all, but our loss is someone else's incredible gain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

REMEMBERING JERRY WEST

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a world-class athlete, NBA executive, proud West Virginian, and my very, very dear friend, Jerry West.

Often referred to as one of the greatest American basketball players of all time, his career led him to success, joining the greats in stadiums across America, far from his hometown in the Mountain State of West Virginia.

Born in Chelyan in 1938, Jerry spent the beginning of his life in a small town in southern West Virginia. He faced many health and family challenges as a young boy, but he spent a lot of time shooting hoops in his backyard.

At East Bank High School, he began educating himself on the ins and outs of the sport he loved. Jerry quickly began to excel in the game as the star of his beloved high school team. His jump shot was always his trademark, and it allowed him to stand out even as a young player.

Jerry attended West Virginia University, where his already well-developed skills and unyielding consistency were notable characteristics of his playing ability. He consistently averaged double digits in points, rebounds, and assists in almost every major game.

One personal story I can tell you: As a 10-year-old boy in 1957, my mother took me—she loved basketball and loved to go to Mountaineer games. She took me to the games as a small boy. She said: Now you watch that little No. 44, that little skinny guy over there. He really can move the ball well. He has very good delivery. I think he might be something.

That was my mother. I remember that to this day.

In the 1960 Summer Olympics, he won a gold medal as cocaptain of the U.S. men's basketball team.

Following his second overall selection in the NBA draft of the same year by the Minneapolis Lakers, Jerry continued to be a powerhouse on the court as the team moved to Los Angeles. Mr. Clutch, as he was known, sank a staggering number of winning baskets from both the field and free throw line. With his signature jump shot extending 16 inches above the rim, his defense, as well as offense, was solid, but often it was his work ethic that was the envy of his teammates.

One of the reasons Jerry was so successful was he was never one to back down from a challenge. Like all of us, he experienced setbacks in life which weren't always met with victory. Those are the types of situations where a person's true character will show through. He always believed that hard work, dedication, and perseverance will get you where you need to be, win or lose.

With Jerry's leadership on the court, the Lakers continued to rise through the ranks in the subsequent seasons. He racked up a staggering number of notable accomplishments.

During his 14 years with the Los Angeles Lakers, he was voted 12 times to the All-NBA first and second teams, elected to the NBA All-Star team 14 times, and continues to hold the NBA record for highest average points in a

playoff series. At the time of his retirement as a player in 1974, he had scored more points than any other Los Angeles Laker in franchise history.

Jerry capped his momentous career with two enshrinements in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a player. He is scheduled to be added a third time this fall as a contributor for his work as an executive and consultant.

His innate talent shined through both on and off the court. He continued with the Lakers, coaching for a short time, leading them to three playoffs and a conference final. Shortly after his longstanding presence with the Lakers, he continued as an executive with them. Many looked to him for direction on how the game of basketball should evolve.

The franchise continued to bypass others, which quite literally defined the sport throughout the seventies, eighties, and nineties. He set the team up to sign and retain some of the most celebrated names in basketball history, helping him to earn his notoriety with the NBA community that still continues to this day.

With the skill to take whatever team he was with to new heights, Jerry worked with the Grizzlies, the Warriors, and the Clippers to improve their stagnant franchises. The teams would not be what they are today without his guidance.

When you think of basketball, you think of Jerry West. One of the sport's most notable icons, it is only fitting that his legacy has been forever commemorated in the NBA logo. From his skills on the court to his unrivaled knowledge of the game from all perspectives, he continues to have a lasting impact on the sports world.

His thoughts were models for how to manage success, failure, and change—those all happen in life—how to take the lessons you have learned, adapt them, and go on to improve the world around you, which is what Jerry did every day.

I am honored to have been present at the Oval Office of the White House when Jerry was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019. I can only begin to imagine how many leaders Jerry forged throughout his time and how many of his former teammates and colleagues still look up to him to this day.

In that spirit, I am forever grateful to Jerry for his commitment to the sports community as well as our shared passion for representing the people of the State we both love so much, West Virginia. With God-given talent and unmatched character, Jerry's life has benefited the people of our home State in a profound way. The legacy he leaves behind is undoubtedly an integral part of our heritage. He was a very dear friend to me and a proud ambassador of the Mountain State.

From the coalfields of West Virginia to basketball's biggest stages, Jerry always demonstrated his mastery of the sport with grace and humility.

It is my hope that his family and friends can find peace, strength, and comfort in one another during the loss of this wonderful person.

Gayle and I offer our deepest condolences to his wife Karen; his sons, David, Michael, Mark, Ryan, and Jonnie; and all of his family and friends and all of the loved ones who loved him so dearly. We will forever keep Jerry and his remarkable legacy in our thoughts and prayers for the rest of our lives.

God bless you, Jerry.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask that the scheduled vote commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON MALDONADO NOMINATION

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

Mr. MANCHIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Ms. BUTLER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 203 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Lujan	Tester
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Murphy	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

#### NAYS—43

Barrasso	Cassidy	Ernst
Blackburn	Collins	Fischer
Boozman	Cornyn	Graham
Braun	Cotton	Grassley
Britt	Cramer	Hagerty
Budd	Crapo	Hawley
Capito	Daines	Hyde-Smith

Johnson	Moran	Thune
Kennedy	Murkowski	Tillis
Lankford	Ricketts	Tuberville
Lee	Rounds	Vance
Lummis	Schmitt	Wicker
Manchin	Scott (SC)	Young
Marshall	Sinema	
McConnell	Sullivan	

#### NOT VOTING—10

Cruz	Mullin	Rubio
Fetterman	Paul	Scott (FL)
Hoeben	Risch	
Menendez	Romney	

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). 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.

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. 623.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029. (Reappointment).

#### 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 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. 623, Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Angus S. King, Jr., Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Laphonza R. Butler, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Chris Coons, Tim Kaine.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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