

stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 10; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Abelson nomination postcloture; further, that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that following the cloture vote on the Vargas nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture has been invoked on the Vargas nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator WARNOCK.

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

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

#### APALACHEE SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I rise today carrying the grief of all Georgians after a school shooting in the small town of Winder, GA, claimed the lives of two children and two educators just 5 days ago.

I have been in the U.S. Senate a little over 3 years, and I have stood here three times to lament yet another tragic mass shooting in my State alone that has taken innocent lives. That is as unsurprising as it is tragic since we endure, in this country, about two mass shootings a day.

So here we are again. I stand here not just as a Senator but as a father of two young children. I can tell you that as a dad, that time in the morning when you get your kids ready for school and you put them in the car and you drive them to school—that is precious time. All of us parents, when we drop our kids off—we drive them to school or walk them to school or walk them to the schoolbus—we want to know that we are going to pick them up just a few hours later. It is a ritual played out in small towns and big cities all across America, and it is something we take for granted. But increasingly in the United States of America, we cannot take for granted that when we drop our kids off in the morning, we

will pick them up at 3 o'clock. That is every parents' nightmare regardless of your politics.

Only weeks into the new school year, this nightmare again became a reality in Georgia. With four dead, others injured, and an entire community traumatized, Apalachee High School joins a grim and growing procession of schools where our children are dying from gun violence.

We cannot easily pass this over. We must never forget their names: two dedicated educators, Cristina Irimie and Richard—or Coach Ricky, as he was called—Aspinwall, and then two young students, Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo.

On Friday night, this past Friday night, I went to Winder to join Apalachee students, families, and community members as they came together to mourn these precious souls. It was a Friday night in smalltown Georgia. The truth is, we should have been there for a football game—how I remember those nights as a high school student—but instead of cheering on their classmates, they were mourning their classmates.

One student came up to me with pain in her eyes, and she said, "I don't want to go back to school." Then there were these girls, these 15-year-old girls, who surrounded me, because I spent some time there, and they began to talk to me. One of them talked about hearing the noise of someone banging on the door, of huddling and wondering what would come next.

Coach Ricky, who was beloved, was also a math teacher, and one of the girls said: This was my math teacher. Imagine that. You go to school one day, and the biggest thing you are concerned about is understanding the math problem, and you come to school the next day, the next week, and your math teacher is dead—another victim of a mass shooting in your school.

I remember talking also to the family of Christian, and the father shared with me that they had moved from California to a small town in Georgia looking for a quiet and peaceful life. Sad irony. Tragic irony.

One of my colleagues suggested over the weekend—one of my Senate colleagues—that this kind of violence is a fact of life. That is what he said. He said it is a fact of life.

No. This is a fact of life in America. In no other country that is not at war is this kind of random violence routine. This is a tragic form of American exceptionalism.

As we wrestle with this trauma, I think we are all called as a country to ask ourselves, what trauma do we visit upon our children if we say that the only thing we can do for you in the midst of all of this is to teach you how to hide?

That same colleague, by the way, suggested that what we ought to do is harden the schools because these are soft targets. Well, apply that logic. So are we going to harden every school in

America, harden every grocery store in America? What about shopping malls? What about spas? What about the medical clinics? What about the houses of worship? Is that the answer? Are we going to turn the whole country into a fort just so 14-year-olds can have AR-15s? So I know that we may not all agree on what to do, but surely we can do better than that. We don't have to live this way. We don't have to accept this as a fact of life.

So in the midst of all of this, we hear often the words, you know, "We are sending our thoughts and our prayers." Let me say as a man of faith that to say that you are praying while refusing to act is to make a mockery of faith. We must pray with our lips, and we must pray by taking action.

I do not believe that mass shootings as routine are the cost of freedom; I believe that they are the cost of blind obstinance. They are the cost of greed.

So we must start and see through a serious, bipartisan conversation right here in Washington and in State capitals all over this country about how to better protect our children and communities across the country from the scourge of gun violence.

I was proud that a few years ago, just a couple years ago, we did make progress right here in this Chamber, and we passed commonsense gun safety reforms in the wake of yet another tragic school shooting. While that bill was modest, it was meaningful. We made progress. Right now, that law is saving lives but, as we were reminded just a few days ago, not enough. So there is still work for us to do.

For me, this is not a political issue; it is a moral issue. The glimmer of hope is that most American families feel the same way. According to a FOX News poll, about 87 percent of Americans believe that Congress ought to pass universal background checks. That is Democrats and Republicans—87 percent agreement. Still we can't have a serious conversation about that here in this Chamber. Why? Because politicians have put their own political ambitions—their own fears in some cases—ahead of the people we were sent here to represent. It is just another sign of the growing chasm between what the people want and what they can get out of their government. In that sense, it is a democracy problem.

So we have to save the American people from this carnage, and we have to redeem the democracy. We must do more, and I believe in our ability to do more because I believe in the American people. The American people are calling for change—Democrats and Republicans, folks in rural spaces and in urban spaces. It is the gun lobby that wants to turn this into a culture war because they know that is in their best interest.

This is a public safety issue, and the American people are calling out for action, they are calling for sanity, and I believe it is high time that we do that work.

As I close, I just want to thank our law enforcement officers. I want to thank our first responders and our healthcare workers. May we thank our educators, our teachers, our coaches. May we remember the people of Winder and Apalachee High School and small towns all across our country. They all stood up the other day, shining bright in a dark moment. I pray for the day when I will be able to say the same thing about the U.S. Congress. It is past time.

As dark as this moment is, may we be encouraged by the words of Scripture:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

I yield the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:56 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LANHEE J. CHEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE JEFFREY R. MORELAND, TERM EXPIRED.

### UNITED NATIONS

BEN CARDIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

TANYA LEIGH FLORES, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

DAN SULLIVAN, OF ALASKA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

MICHAEL TRAGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ADAM GAMORAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE MARK SCHNEIDER, TERM EXPIRED.

### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

GORDON HARTOGENSIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2031, VICE ROMAN MARTINEZ IV, TERM EXPIRING.

### THE JUDICIARY

ELIZABETH C. COOMBE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE GLENN T. SUDDABY, RETIRED.

SARAH MORGAN DAVENPORT, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO, VICE WILLIAM P. JOHNSON, RETIRING.

SHARAD HARSHAD DESAI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE G. MURRAY SNOW, RETIRING.

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be general

LT. GEN. XAVIER T. BRUNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD E. ANGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. GARY A. ROPERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. THERESA K. COGSWELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LANCE A. OKAMURA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT W. HIRAKKA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL L. KUETTNER

COL. SANDRA K. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHNNY K. DAVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ALLAN M. PEPIN

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

JUSTIN S. ALBERICO

TERRANCE S. ALLEN

MATTHEW M. ANDREWS

MATTHEW R. ARNOLD

NICHOLAS D. ARTHUR

KEATON B. ASKEW

BRYSON STEPHEN AYERS

JONATHAN N. BALL

EDMUND A. BALLEW

JUSTIN D. BANEZ

WILLIAM S. BARKSDALE

LINDSEY A. BAUER

BRIAN D. BEEARS

MARK W. BERTHELOTTE

BRETT W. BLACK

IVAN L. BLACKWELL

KRISTEN ALYCE BONEBERG

ASCENZO J. BONITATI

WILLIAM F. BOOTH II

ADAM R. BOYD

MARC R. BRADLE

EDWARD A. BRAHMBHATT

JESE D. BREAU

PAUL J. BREHM

MIKITA R. BROWN

STANLEY C. BROWN, JR.

JULIANA T. BRUNS

STEVEN JAMES CAIN

ELLEN MARIE GETZ CANUP

SHAWN M. CHAMBERLIN

SHAWN R. CHANEY

MICHAEL S. CHMIELEWSKI

JONATHAN TREVOR CICHOWSKI

MARY F. CLARK

DAVID R. CLEMENTI

STEVEN M. COOPER

KEVIN D. COUGHLIN

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL COVILLE

RICHARD S. CRAMER, JR.

JOHN ALBERT CUMMINGS, JR.

BROOKS M. DANIEL

BRADLEY W. DAVIES

CHAD M. DAVIES

JONATHAN R. DEDIC

AARON M. DEVAN

BRIAN R. DICKS

SCOTT D. DIEHL

STEVEN E. DOVE

SARAH M. DOWD

JOHN DAVID DURAY

LAURA B. EASTON

JOSHUA J. EDGINGTON

JASON M. EGGER

DANIEL J. ETUE

JASON B. EVANS

JOSEPH N. FARAONE  
GREGORY R. FARRELL  
NARADA MICHAEL FELDER  
VALARIE C. FERRARA  
JONATHAN E. FEUCHT  
RYAN A. FITZGERALD  
JAMILA W. FITZPATRICK  
SARAH V. FORTIN  
DANIEL E. FREDBERG  
DAVID M. GALLOWAY  
ANDREW J. GLASS  
CHARLES W. GOETZ  
ERIC DENNIS GORNEY  
DAVID R. GOTTLIEB  
JONATHAN T. GRAYSON  
JEFFREY K. GREENSFELDER  
RICHARD J. GREIG  
TIMOTHY LYNN GROFF  
MATTHEW WILLIAM GUASCO  
MATTHEW R. HAMMERLE  
DANETA F. HARRINGTON  
NICHOLAS I. HAUSLER  
THOMAS GROVER HAWKES  
BRIAN T. HELLESTO  
DANIEL J. HELLINGER  
JOHN LEWIS HENDERSON, JR.  
MATTHEW J. HENFELY  
CORY E. HENWOOD  
MICHAEL Z. HERSHEY  
JACOB P. HESS  
DANIEL J. HEWES  
RICHARD S. HIGASHI  
CHRISTOPHER E. HIGH  
CHARLES DAVID HODGES  
KIRK W. HOFFMAN  
MARCI A. HOFFMAN  
COREY C. HOGUE  
JORDAN MATTHEW HRUPEK  
GREGORY ANDREW HUNGER  
JOHN D. HUNTSMAN  
JONATHAN M. HUTTO  
CORYDON ANDREW JERCH  
JAMIE R. JOHNSON  
RAYMOND CARLTON JONES  
CHRISTOPHER L. KARINS  
PRICHARD R. KEELY  
HEATH J. KERNS  
AARON W. KISER  
ROBERT M. KNAPP  
BUCKLEY J. KOZLOWSKI  
DANIEL S. KROWINSKI  
JARED L. LALIBERTE  
FRANK STEVEN LARAS  
BRANDON TAYLOR LAURET  
CHARLES A. LEDERATTE  
DAVID LEE LEVENE  
GABRIEL ADAM LEWIS  
BRENT LUKE LIPOVSKY  
AARON JOHN LIPPY  
SHAUN P. LOOMIS  
CHARLES CHRISTIAN LOWRY  
MEGAN M. LUKA  
KURT D. MACALONEY  
MATTHEW MACFARLANE  
NATHAN C. MALAFIA  
STEVEN M. MASSIE II  
JOHN P. MATCHETT  
MICHAEL A. MATT  
DREW R. MAULSBY  
ANTHONY E. MAY  
TIMOTHY J. MAY  
JEREMY L. MAYFIELD  
DERRICK L. MCCLEIN  
ROLAND TAFT MCELVEEN  
PATRICK B. MCCLAUGHLIN  
BREANNA C. MCNAIR  
LESLIE E. MCPHEAK III  
ZACHARY K. MILLER  
ANDREW M. MILLER  
PHILLIP R. MILLER  
MICHAEL JAMES MILOSZEWSKI  
JEFFREY T. MITCHELL  
ROBERT L. MOORE  
JOSHUA A. MOORES  
BRIAN J. MORRISSEY  
MATTHEW D. MUMKA  
WILLIAM C. MURPHY  
STEVEN A. MWESIGWA  
CRAIG H. NEUMAN  
JUSTIN L. NOEHL  
STEVEN T. NOLAN  
CRAIG M. NORDGREN  
JOHN R. OHLUND  
TRAVIS JOHN OTTENBACHER  
WILLIAM D. OWEN, JR.  
JOHN D. OWENS  
NATHAN E. PADGETT  
JESSE C. FALCHICK  
DANIEL P. PALLISTER  
JACOB R. PARKER  
EVAN C. PARKER  
PATRICK R. PARRISH  
MICHAEL S. PERRY  
BRENT L. PETERSON  
CALVIN E. PETERSON  
JEFFREY M. PETERSON  
HENRY E. PFLUGRADT III  
RODNEY B. PIERCE  
DANIEL M. PIPER  
JOHN P. POHLEN  
NICOLA C. POLIDOR  
BENJAMIN ROY POOLE  
KYLE J. PORTER  
LINDSAY MIXSON POST  
ERIC V. POUNDS  
DEREK R. RANKIN  
NICHOLAS C. REDENIUS