

preparing him to withstand the tough conditions that he experiences on his mission trips.

Ricardo's lifelong dedication to serving others is an example to all of us.

Thank you, Ricardo.

I would also like to recognize SCPO Wayne Weeks of Geneva, AL. Wayne was motivated to join the U.S. Navy by his four uncles, who served in World War II. One of Wayne's uncles lost his life just 4 days after turning 21 years old during an Allied invasion of Italy.

Wayne recalls attending his uncle's funeral as a small child and felt inspired to serve in the military as soon as he could. In 1953, at the age of 18, he courageously answered this calling and joined the Navy. Wayne traveled the oceans across the world, keeping our aircraft prepared for combat. He would serve until the end of the Vietnam war in 1975. Despite the domestic turmoil and protests around that time, Wayne looks back positively on his time in the military.

Wayne's determination to see a difficult war through from the beginning to the end demonstrates his integrity to finish the job he started. Wayne embodies the American grit that is foundational to our military service-members who have kept our country safe and the torch of liberty burning bright.

Alabama is proud of Wayne and his wonderful wife Helen.

Thank you for your service, Wayne.

Finally, the strength of our military is dependent on the next generation of warriors who believe in our country and are willing to defend it. No one demonstrates this next generation of courage better than PO2 Alex Vogt of Hoover, AL.

Alex says he felt he had a duty as an American who had benefited from the many opportunities our country offers to give back by joining the military, so he enlisted as a nuclear mechanic in the U.S. Navy in 2016, deploying around the world to maintain our submarines. His final mission was decommissioning the USS *Olympia* submarine before he was discharged in 2021.

When asked what Veterans Day means to him, Alex was quick to note the importance of using this day to show our gratitude for all veterans and their families. Alex and his wife Anna are now passing along this patriotic spirit to their twin boys, Charlie and Thomas.

We want to thank you for your service, Alex. You are truly an inspiration to us all.

These are just three Alabama veterans who sacrificed so much by serving our country. There are so many others who are also willing to give their lives for the great country that we have.

I am reminded of my father, Charles Tuberville III, a World War II veteran. My father was one of the brave, young soldiers who landed and fought on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. My dad remains an inspiration for me to this day. I will never forget his service to our country.

As President Reagan said, "Veterans have given their best for all of us, and we must continue to do our best by them." By observing Veterans Day this year, I hope we are encouraged to continue giving veterans our best.

When you see a man or woman in uniform, please—please—take the time and thank them for their service. Because of their service and sacrifice, America remains a great beacon of freedom for generations to come.

May God bless our veterans and their families.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I echo the comments of my colleague regarding the service of our veterans. They have stood up for us overseas, and we must stand up for them back here at home.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF APRIL M. PERRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it is my great privilege to help lead the confirmation of the Biden-Harris administration's judicial nominees. It is one of our committee's most important tasks, and confirming fair, evenhanded judges who are dedicated to the Constitution is one of my priorities as chair. But it is even more of an honor to help confirm judges from my State of Illinois.

Today, I would like to take a moment to say a word in support of April Perry, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She is highly qualified and will strengthen the Federal bench.

Ms. Perry is a highly accomplished litigator whose breadth of experience in the government and the private sector makes her an outstanding nominee. A double graduate of Northwestern University, Ms. Perry clerked on the Seventh Circuit before serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois for more than a decade. In that role, she investigated and prosecuted a broad range of criminal cases.

Additionally, Ms. Perry served as the Civil Rights and Hate Crimes coordinator, the Project Safe Childhood and Violence Against Women Act coordinator, and the Narcotics and Gangs Deputy chief in the U.S. attorney's office. Following this, Ms. Perry served in the Cook County State's attorney's office and has since expanded her legal experience as in-house counsel at GE Healthcare. Suffice it to say, Ms. Perry has proven herself an experienced, tal-

ented litigator with a dedication to the rule of law.

Ms. Perry was rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association and has the strong support of Senator DUCKWORTH and myself. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

VOTE ON PERRY NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Perry nomination?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 256 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeben	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

Fetterman	Rubio	Vance
Risch	Sinema	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). 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

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.

REMEMBERING ANNA MAE WEEMS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor Anna Mae Weems. Anna Mae was a standout citizen from Waterloo, who passed away in September after 98 years of life well-lived.

My wife Barbara and I met Anna Mae during my first congressional campaign for elected office in 1974. Little did we know, our fast friendship would endure 50 cherished years. We were fortunate to get to know the Weems family. I was reminded recently of a story. Barbara had shared the Senate bean soup recipe with the Weems family, and they enjoyed it together each year.

Anna Mae was always helping others and bridging connections. She fostered relationships for me with countless fellow Iowans, local groups, churches, and more. Her passion for civil rights and fierce advocacy against racial discrimination drove Anna Mae's work as a talented organizer. She facilitated a march in Waterloo to honor the 20th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington and invited me to join. It was an important event that brought the community together. Anna Mae had marched on the picket line alongside Dr. King during the 1968 sanitation workers' strike in Memphis. At that time, she served as a prominent union leader at Rath Packing Company in Waterloo. She was the perfect person for the job. Change seemed to happen overnight when Anna Mae came around because she refused to rest until people paid attention. She never gave up on a cause she felt was unjust.

In fact, I have Anna Mae to thank for bringing many causes to my attention. As a Senator, my No. 1 priority is to help Iowans the best I possibly can. She identified me as a resource to many Iowans who didn't know a Senator could help with their particular cases.

Over the years, through frequent phone conversations, I learned from Anna Mae's insights—and about the ways she was making our community a better place. It was a privilege for Barbara and me to know Anna Mae, her extraordinary impact, and the positive mark she left wherever she went.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PI GAMMA MU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society on celebrating its 100th anniversary. As a proud member, I commend the work the society has done and continues to do in encour-

aging and promoting excellence in the world of social science disciplines.

Social science studies are important because they help us understand one another, our government, and how we can help build a better world. One hundred years is an important milestone, and it represents the exceptional achievement and impact the society has around the world and in our country. I appreciate the unwavering commitment of Pi Gamma Mu toward contributing to philanthropic causes and intellectual spaces. One hundred years of service and achievement is rare, and it demonstrates the society's outstanding impact on young scholars.

As a Senator and a member, I am pleased to send my best wishes to Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society for this extraordinary accomplishment. On behalf of all Iowans and myself, I salute you on a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEANIE WILCOXON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jeanie Wilcoxon on being named Arkansas's 2025 Teacher of the Year by the Arkansas Department of Education.

Jeanie is a fourth-grade math teacher at Chenal Elementary School in the Pulaski County Special School District in Little Rock. She has been a teacher for 25 years, 13 of which have been spent in this district.

She is a graduate of Dumas High School who pursued higher education first at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where she earned a bachelor of science in elementary and secondary physical education. She went on to complete postbaccalaureate work in elementary education at Louisiana State University.

Jeanie displays an immense commitment to her students inside the classroom, and the results of her diligent and innovative approach are evident with her math students consistently ranking in the top 3 percent of standardized test scores.

Her dedication doesn't stop when the class bell rings. She also gives her time to academic and athletic extracurricular activities, including previously serving as a high school athletic coach and organizing clubs to promote skills like coding to help students apply their curriculum and lessons to the real world. Jeanie's efforts both inside and outside the classroom create a fun and dynamic learning environment that helps her students gain confidence and develop skills they need for future success.

Throughout her career, Jeanie has been recognized by her peers and leaders for her successful instruction in addition to being beloved by students. She previously has been honored as the Pulaski County Special School District Teacher of the Year for 2023–2024 and

earned the Iberville Parish Teacher of the Year award for 2006–2007.

As part of her duties as Teacher of the Year for Arkansas, Jeanie will travel the State to share best practices and promote the teaching profession. She will also serve as a nonvoting member on Arkansas's State Board of Education.

Jeanie's dedication towards her students exemplifies what it means to be a teacher, mentor, and leader, and I am extremely proud that she is receiving the recognition she richly deserves. I wish her the best of luck during her tenure as our State's top educator.●

TRIBUTE TO IAN MALLORY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, Detective Ian Mallory stands out as an exceptional law enforcement professional with a steadfast commitment to justice and keeping Iowans safe. Throughout 8 years of service as a detective with the University of Iowa Police Department, Detective Mallory has consistently pursued investigations long after others might abandon them, demonstrating an unwavering drive to restore faith in the justice system for victims who had lost hope.

Detective Mallory was recently honored with the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa's 2024 Law Enforcement Victim Services Award. Ian's determination to resolve a three-decade-long identity theft scheme that stumped law enforcement, courts, banks, and government officials alike earned this accolade. Through an exhaustive investigation, Ian's breakthroughs brought a sophisticated web of deception to light and conclusively identified the fraudster.

Detective Mallory's persistence was instrumental in resolving a case involving a suspect who fled to Jordan after being arrested for brutally strangling a woman until she was unconscious on the University of Iowa campus in April 2022. The suspect, facing charges of attempted murder and first-degree robbery and theft, escaped 10 days before trial by removing the court-ordered GPS ankle monitor. He then fled the country using a Jordanian passport.

Undeterred, Detective Mallory successfully established a rapport with the suspect, overcoming the 8-hour time difference between Iowa and Jordan by often waking up in the middle of the night to maintain communication. Through his diligence, Detective Mallory persuaded the suspect to voluntarily return to the United States to face justice. Detective Mallory subsequently worked closely with the U.S. Embassy Overseas Criminal Investigations Unit in Jordan to meticulously plan the suspect's return.

Detective Mallory's tireless service, integrity, and genuine concern for victims embodies the highest standards of law enforcement. We should all commend him for his exemplary service to the people of Iowa.●