

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I will be brief because I am set to relieve you in the chair, so my time is very limited.

There are two aspects to JON's life that I would like to comment on. I experienced both. One was as a legislator and a Senator, and the other was as a friend.

And he was a master legislator. The PACT Act would not have happened without JON TESTER. That is just a fact. And there are thousands, millions of veterans across the country here who are going to benefit from that act of legislative work that it took to get that across the finish line.

I remember being here, and there were some procedural votes. We fell back; JON stayed at it; we got it done. Many of the comments today have been about JON as a legislator, as a Senator, as a model Senator, but I also want to comment on JON as a friend.

JON is one of the best human beings I have ever met. Not necessarily one of the best—I am not saying legislator, public servant, school teacher. I am talking human being. I am talking about a person who is real. My wife is Jewish. She would call him a mensch; that is somebody who steps up. He has been a friend to me throughout.

We have had innumerable dinners together. I don't think he has ever paid for one, but we have spent so much time together. And I have learned so much from JON about commitment, about honesty, about integrity, about serving the public; and I just want to say we are losing a great human being here as well as a great legislator.

And I want to echo CORY BOOKER: I love you, man. We are going to miss you.

(Applause.)

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. TESTER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate communications regarding the resignations from the Senate of Senator BUTLER and Senator HELMY, which, without objection, are deemed read and spread upon the Journal and printed in full in the RECORD.

The letters follow:

U.S. SENATE,
December 6, 2024.

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS,
President of the U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS: Please find the attached document dated December 6,

2024, officially notifying California Governor Gavin Newsom of my intent to resign my Senate seat effective Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Sincerely,

LAPHONZA R. BUTLER,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
December 6, 2024.

Governor GAVIN NEWSOM,
Sacramento, CA.

GOVERNOR NEWSOM: I hereby resign as Senator from the State of California, effective Sunday, December 8, 2024. As I prepare to return to private life, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the people of California for granting me the immense privilege of serving them in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

LAPHONZA R. BUTLER,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2024.

Hon. KAMALA HARRIS,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM VICE PRESIDENT: Please find enclosed my letter of resignation I transmitted to the Governor of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

GEORGE S. HELMY,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2024.

Hon. PHIL MURPHY,
Governor of New Jersey, Office of the Governor
Trenton, NJ.

DEAR GOVERNOR MURPHY: I write to inform you that I will be resigning from my office as the United States Senator from New Jersey, effective on December 8, 2024.

For well over a decade, I have devoted my professional career to serving the people of New Jersey. I had the honor and privilege to work for Senators Frank Lautenberg and CORY BOOKER. And, you provided me with the most rewarding public service experience of my life, serving as your Chief of Staff.

I am proud of the accomplishments my team and I have achieved in our brief time in office. We pushed forward important legislative proposals, including a series of bills focused on alleviating the youth mental health crisis. Additionally, we advanced a number of priorities important to New Jerseyans, including key congressional funding that will benefit projects and programs in our state.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to once again serve our great state. It was the honor of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

GEORGE S. HELMY,
U.S. Senator.

CERTIFICATES OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of Bob Menendez, former Senator from New Jersey; a certificate of election to fill the unexpired term caused by the resignation of Ben Sasse, former Senator from Nebraska; and a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term created by the death of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein of the State of California. The certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived, and

they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificates were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF NEBRASKA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR UNEXPIRED TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 5th day of November 2024, Pete Ricketts was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Nebraska a Senator for the unexpired term ending at noon on the 3rd day of January, 2027, to fill the vacancy in the representation from said State in the Senate of the United States caused by the resignation of Ben Sasse.

Witness: His excellency our governor Jim Pillen, and our seal hereto affixed at Lincoln, Nebraska this 2nd day of December, in the year of our Lord 2024.

By the governor:

JIM PILLEN,
Governor.
ROBERT B. EVNEN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of New Jersey, I, Philip D. Murphy, the Governor of New Jersey, do hereby appoint Andy Kim, a Senator from New Jersey to represent New Jersey in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Senator George S. Helmy, effective December 8, 2024.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Philip D. Murphy, and our seal hereto affixed at Trenton this 8th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2024.

By the Governor:

PHILIP D. MURPHY,
Governor.

Attest:

TAHESHA L. WAY,
Lt. Governor/Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of California, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, the Governor of California, do hereby appoint ADAM B. SCHIFF a Senator from California to represent California in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Laphonza R. Butler, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Gavin Newsom, and our seal hereto affixed in the City of San Diego, this 8th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2024.

GAVIN NEWSOM,
Governor.

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senators-elect and Senators-designates

will now present themselves at the desk, the Chair will administer the oaths of office.

The Senator-designate, ANDY KIM, escorted by Mr. BOOKER; the Senator-designate, PETE RICKETTS, escorted by Mrs. FISCHER; and the Senator-designate, ADAM B. SCHIFF, escorted by Mr. PADILLA, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senators.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

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

NOMINATION OF TIFFANY RENE JOHNSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Tiffany Johnson to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Ms. Johnson's impressive career in public service, combined with her Federal court experience, will make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

After earning her B.A. from Princeton University and her J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law, Ms. Johnson began her career in private practice as an associate at Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs, LLP, where she focused on a wide range of complex commercial litigation.

In 2017, Ms. Johnson transitioned to public service, joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia as an assistant U.S. attorney. In that role, she has litigated both civil and criminal cases in all stages of proceedings, from conducting fact and expert depositions in civil matters, to prosecuting white-collar and public corruption crimes.

Ms. Johnson has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. OSSOFF and Mr. WARNOCK. In addition, she was rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Johnson's nomination.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote start immediately.

VOTE ON JOHNSON NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 317 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—8

Cassidy	Moran	Sinema
Fetterman	Risch	Vance
Lujan	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). 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. 783.

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 Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 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. 783, Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Mark R. Warner, Jeanne Shaheen, Martin Heinrich, Jon Tester, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ron Wyden, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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. 784.

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 Joshua L. Ditelberg, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2027.

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. 784, Joshua L. Ditelberg, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2027.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark R. Warner, Jeanne Shaheen, Martin Heinrich, Jon Tester, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters,