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## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Lisa Wink Schultz of the Senate Chaplain's Office here in Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have given us this Nation for our heritage. Today, we ask that You keep us mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will.

Use the Members of this body to labor for justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. Give them the wisdom to use their power for the healing of our land. Keep their goals high, vision clear, and minds keen. Lord, do for them more than they can ask or imagine, according to Your power, working in and through them.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, December 11, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive 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)

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF LAUREN MCGARITY MCFERRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later this morning, the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of Lauren McFerran to serve another term as a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Ms. McFerran has served admirably on the NLRB for many years, where

she is known for her fairness, deep expertise, and guiding the Board to deal with the challenges of the contemporary workplace. She worked in the Senate for our former colleagues Tom Harkin and the late Ted Kennedy.

If you truly care about working families, if you care about fixing income inequality in America, then you should be in favor of advancing today's NLRB nominee. You can't say you are for working families and then go and vote no today, because the NLRB protects workers from mistreatment on the job and from overreaching employers.

#### HEARTS ACT

Mr. President, on the HEARTS Act passage, last night, in a great moment, the Senate finally reached the end zone of the HEARTS Act, a bill I have worked on for months with Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills to better prepare schools against cardiac emergencies. The HEARTS Act is now on the way to President Biden's desk. By doing so, we are ensuring that every school has access to AEDs and the ability to teach CPR.

The HEARTS Act will save lives, plain and simple. God forbid a child goes into cardiac arrest while at school or a young athlete suffers an emergency on the field, but thanks to the HEARTS Act, there will soon be more AEDs nearby to save them like they saved Damar Hamlin.

I am so proud to have worked with Damar to get this bill passed. He is an amazing man. Together, I must say, Damar and I—unlikely as it may seem—have been a great team. After he suffered from cardiac arrest in the middle of a football game, Damar didn't just sit around; he came to visit me in Washington and told me he wanted to "make history" and ensure more kids in schools have access to the same AEDs that saved Damar's life. Last night, finally, history was made when we passed this bill that Damar and I proudly led.

So thank you, Damar Hamlin. You are both a strong and humble man. It

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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is a rare combination. Thank you to the Buffalo Bills. Thank you to the NFL and Roger Goodell. Thank you to all the student athletes and great champions in Buffalo and everywhere who pushed for this bill. They all made it happen.

## CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, later today, I will meet with the President-elect's pick to serve as the next Secretary of Commerce, Howard Lutnick of New York. I look forward to a fruitful and positive discussion. I have known Howard Lutnick for many years. He is an intelligent and capable man.

I think it is very important for New York and every other State and for America that the next Commerce Secretary is willing to build on the progress of the last few years and help the United States outcompete the Chinese Communist Party on AI, chip manufacturing, and in many other areas as well. It is especially important for States like New York and many others where we are bringing manufacturing back from overseas to strengthen domestic supply chains and our national security.

I can assure Howard Lutnick and all of the President-elect's nominees that we will give them fair and thorough consideration in the Senate. As I said in my letter to Senator THUNE last week, it is important that everyone goes through the standard process nominees have always had, including access to full FBI investigation materials, hearings with questions, and a vote on the floor.

I look forward to my conversation with Howard Lutnick later today.

## WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. President, on WRDA, last night, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the 2024 Water Resources Development Act, named this year in honor of our dear retiring friend Senator CARPER, who has been a champion of this bill for so long. WRDA is one of Congress's most important bills for water infrastructure projects carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The bill passed with resounding bipartisan support—399 to 18—in the House, with all Democrats in favor.

This year's bill also includes reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration and several regional Commissions, making critical investments in infrastructure, workforce, and supply chains that will help the United States outcompete the rest of the world.

This bipartisan bill passed out of the EPW Committee earlier this year with unanimous support. The Senate is now working on a path to get WRDA and the EDA package cleared through this Chamber. It is my hope we can act on these bipartisan bills as soon as possible.

Reauthorizing WRDA opens the floodgates to authorize all sorts of water-related projects for our economy. It helps improve our ports and in-

land waterways. It helps communities protect against flood damage. It safeguards our delicate ecosystems, and it enhances access to public water.

WRDA is also critical for New York, where it improves, among other things, shoreline resiliency and flood protections from the Great Lakes all the way to New York City. The EDA authorization part of the bill will also direct more Federal investment to our most distressed regions and help them rebuild from economic hardship and from disasters.

WRDA and EDA are great examples of bipartisanship in action. So I hope we can reach agreement to get this important bill done as soon as we can.

## TRIBUTE TO THOMAS R. CARPER

Mr. President, about my dear friend Senator CARPER, this week, two of our longtime Democratic colleagues have delivered farewell addresses, Senators TESTER and CARDIN.

Today, another Senator, another dear friend, will deliver his farewell address: the senior Senator from Delaware—TOM CARPER. And when I say "dear friends" about these individuals, it is really true. It is not just verbiage. We are really friends as we have become in this caucus, and that is certainly true of TOM CARPER.

Last night was the annual Taste of Delaware event, one of my favorite events of the year, where everything that is amazing about Delaware is on full display. And if you spend just a few minutes there, you will notice something: The State of Delaware loves TOM CARPER, and TOM CARPER loves Delaware.

He hates being away from home, which is why half the time when I call him about all the issues that we care about together, he is on that Amtrak, hopping home to be with Martha and his family. He does it even on weekdays while we are in session.

Serving Delaware is all TOM knows. He did it first as State treasurer, then Congressman, then Governor, and then, for the last two decades, as Senator. If you put all these elected offices together, it means the people of Delaware have elected and reelected TOM a record 14 times into office, and he never lost an ounce of fight.

Here in the Senate, what a great ambassador he was for the First State. Our caucus relied on TOM's expertise, not just about Delaware, which, of course, we became quite familiar with due to his persistence but also on many different issues, especially when it came to the environment.

TOM is a climate warrior, plain and simple. Few Senators have fought as long or as hard to take action against the climate crisis as TOM has. As chair of the EPW Committee, he expertly negotiated many of the climate and clean energy investments we secured in recent years and had great input into the IRA, the Inflation Reduction Act.

And TOM was both idealistic and practical. When he worked on environmental issues, he knew how important

it was to maximize the amount of clean energy we produce, but at the same time, he knew how to talk to Members on the other side of the aisle, Members who might not agree with him on everything and get them to support a coalition that would support that legislation. He was amazing in action.

As the Senate's last Vietnam war veteran, TOM was also an unflinching champion for our servicemembers and their families. TOM will tell you that despite his time in elected office, his greatest privilege was serving in the Navy for 23 years. And not a day goes by when TOM isn't looking for ways to help our veterans in need.

He is an amazing guy. I even had a nickname for him. TOM and I love old lyrics from the fifties, sixties, and seventies, both songs, music, but TV shows, so his nickname, his initials, for me, were TC, Top Cat. He and I are among the few in this Chamber who remember the cartoon "Top Cat," but TOM CARPER was certainly a Top Cat in this body. Top Cat, you are great. I will miss you.

A final testament to TOM's willingness to go out of his way to help others, he was so enthusiastic about his successor, LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. She got her start in politics as an intern in TOM's office, and when he knew he wasn't going to run, one of the first things he said to me was: Make sure you help LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. She will be a great Senator. And we can begin to see that already.

So I can't think of a more appropriate way to conclude a long career in public service than by making sure your successor can continue your legacy. Senator Moynihan did that, in many ways, with me.

So to TOM, to Martha, the entire family, his two sons, thank you, thank you, thank you for your service. We will miss you very much.

And in the words a Navy man can appreciate: We wish you fair winds and following seas.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

## TRIBUTE TO SHERROD BROWN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, on the floor, I thanked five of my colleagues in the Senate who will be leaving at the end of this Congress. Today, I would like to thank three more.

If you read any profile on Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio, there is a good chance you will see the word "rumpled" in the description of his presentation before the Senate. A rumpled suit has become his trademark. In