

We confirmed the most Black judges, Hispanic judges, and AAPI judges and Native American judges under any President's full time in office.

All of these historic judges were confirmed because they were exceptionally qualified for the job.

Our courts, like all our institutions, are better off when they mirror this vibrant country.

There are a lot of people to thank. I want to thank, at the top of the list, you, Mr. President—Chairman DURBIN—for your diligence and hard work. I want to thank Ranking Member GRAHAM and the members of the Judiciary Committee—some of whom are here—for their great work. You recommended excellent individuals to the bench.

I want to thank, of course, President Biden for sending us such an impressive group of well-qualified and historic nominees. And I want to thank Vice President HARRIS, who came here when the vote was tied and helped us confirm a number of these nominees.

And thank you to our Republican colleagues, who recommended good nominees and supported many of ours as well.

Finally, I want to thank my great staff, especially my incredible nominations director, Catalina Tam. It wouldn't have happened without her diligent and hard work. A lot of behind-the-scenes work happened to get them confirmed, and so I am immensely grateful to everyone who worked tirelessly day in and day out.

Thanks to the hard work of the Senate majority, our courts are stronger, our country is strong, our democracy is stronger. And that is something every American can be proud of.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 851.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. (New Position).

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. 851, David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Direc-

tor of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. (New Position)

Charles E. Schumer, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

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. 854.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

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. 854, Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Chris Van Hollen, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Andy Kim, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons, Adam B. Schiff, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from New York.

JACKIE ROBINSON BALLPARK NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

HOLCOMBE RUCKER PARK NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SITE ACT

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, if you have ever had kids, you know how important it can be to encourage their

education. But with many competing priorities, you sometimes need to use creative strategies to inspire success.

That is something that Holcombe Rucker did. Rucker was a Black World War II veteran and teacher in the 1940s in Harlem. He started a small outdoor basketball team for Black youth and encouraged his players to maintain good grades and decorum. Some say he is the father of outdoor organized basketball for youth and helped give thousands of kids better pathways to higher learning.

Holcombe Rucker grew up a poor parentless kid from 141st Street. He served in the Army during World War II before earning his bachelor's degree from City College. He then taught English at a Harlem junior high school, while also serving as a recreation director for both the St. Phillip's Church Community Center and the city parks department.

When Rucker formed his youth basketball tournament in the late 1940s, however, he didn't get much support from city recreational leaders. So he often paid out of his own shallow pockets to provide refreshments and T-shirts and other essentials for players. Rucker would even share his lunch with his students, often coming home to his wife with an empty stomach.

Rucker believed education and supervised recreation could make an enormous difference in the lives of his students. It is no surprise then why many of his players saw him as a father figure and credited him with helping to set them on a better path.

As Rucker's summer tournaments grew in popularity, parks department officials finally moved them to a more desirable location. That would ultimately become the Holcombe Rucker Park. The court attracted the city's most talented young basketball players, including future professional basketball stars like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, and Julius "Dr. J" Erving.

I want to thank Congressman ESPAILLAT for championing this bill, and I am proud to lead the effort in the Senate to designate this park, which is located on 155th Street, on the banks of the Harlem River, as the "Holcombe Rucker Park National Commemorative Site."

This bill would allow for an educational exhibit, a plaque or another marker to be installed that would help memorialize the legacy of Mr. Rucker for generations to come.

I want to thank Senator RUBIO for his assistance.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6852 and the Senate proceed to an en bloc consideration of the following bills: H.R. 8012, which was received from the House and is at the desk; and H.R. 6852.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The bill (H.R. 8012) to establish the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site in the State of Florida, and for other purposes was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The bill (H.R. 6852) to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I yield the floor. 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. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I expect that sometime this evening, the Senate will move to the consideration of the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal two Social Security provisions: the windfall elimination provision, pronounced "WEP," and the government pension offset, GPO.

I agree with my colleagues that the WEP and GPO should be improved to ensure that teachers, firefighters, police officers, and others receive fair treatment under Social Security; however, I am disappointed that the Finance Committee did not have the opportunity to examine ways to address the WEP and GPO that would be fair to all Social Security beneficiaries and not hurt Social Security's long-term solvency.

In its current form, the Social Security Fairness Act would cost nearly \$200 billion over the next 10 years and exhaust the balance of the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund roughly 6 months earlier for all Social Security beneficiaries. The share of OASI benefits that could be paid when the trust fund is exhausted would be smaller under this bill than under current law, meaning all Social Security beneficiaries will see their Social Security benefits reduced earlier, and their benefits then will be even smaller than they would have been.

I filed an amendment that would delay the implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act until changes are made that would offset the bill's negative impact on Social Security's actuarial balance as determined by the Social Security Board of Trustees. The amendment does not specify what the changes should be or how the changes should be determined.

While I continue to have concerns with the approach taken in the Social Security Fairness Act, at the very least, this amendment needs to be adopted so that we do not have a negative impact on Social Security's sol-

veny and impact the Social Security benefits of all Social Security recipients.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment when it comes up. That will be the Crapo amendment No. 3331.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I just wanted to get up and explain why I will be voting against the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act a little bit later tonight. I am going to try to keep the volume down and maybe the frustration down a little bit more tonight than I did yesterday, but I thought it was important to again explain why sometimes the tough vote is the right vote.

To kind of lay the groundwork, I am from North Carolina. I am up for reelection in November of 2026. I have heard some people walk up and down the hallway and say that they really oppose the bill, but they are up for reelection in 2028 or are up for reelection in 2030, and they are worried about the politics of it. I never worry about the politics when I am convinced in my heart of hearts it is the right decision, and let me explain why.

The Social Security Fairness Act is trying to address what I think is an inequity and a problem. Unfortunately, it is doing it in a way that is at the expense of \$200 billion out of the Social Security trust fund, without a dime offsetting it.

Now, some of my fiscal conservative colleagues have said: Well, no, it is not really depleting it because it is the Social Security trust fund. So it is not adding to our debt.

What they are forgetting is that when the Social Security trust fund becomes insolvent, the fairies don't come back and replenish the Social Security trust fund. We don't have trust fund fairies. What we have is a debt that is already over \$33 trillion that we are going to be expected to write another check out of, and we are headed toward a debt crisis.

This bill, by everyone's agreement—even those who are going to vote for it tonight—pulls forward its insolvency. The consensus right now is that it is going to occur 9 years from now. This pulls it forward by 6 months.

So I have to vote against this bill and not because I don't ultimately want to fix an injustice for a very small percentage of people who deserve a few hundred dollars more a month, but the way we have gone about it, it is going to be costly, and it is being done at a time when we are not plussing the accounts back up.

I feel like, in my vote-casting, I am likely to be on the losing side. I understand that. None of these amendments are going to pass because, if they do, the bill fails, and we know that. So, for anybody who is pulling for one amendment or another, let me just show you how I can tell the future: Not a single one will pass. This bill will be voted out this evening, and it will be sent to the President's desk. Once the President signs it, he will have guaranteed that the Social Security trust fund will become insolvent 6 months sooner. Think about it this way: 8½ years from

now versus 9 years from now. It is going to pull \$200 billion out, causing that to occur.

It is actually going to provide some benefit that I don't believe the beneficiaries deserve. It is really confusing that handful or that segment of the people who will get the benefit and is casting them into a group that, I think, arguably, maybe doesn't deserve the benefit. Anyone who should, we can take care of, but it is not \$200 billion. But that is what happens when you don't have a single committee hearing on a bill. That is what happens when it comes from the House through something called a discharge petition. Bypassing all the processes, it comes to the Senate, and we never even have a hearing.

We are going to have a vote later today for a \$200 billion raiding of the Social Security trust fund that is going to bring insolvency forward from 9 years to 8½ years, and not a single vote or a single hearing has been held in a single committee on Capitol Hill.

Now, folks, if you can't agree on the finances, if you can't agree on the fairness, can we all agree on the process for something as weighty as this? We should have given it the justice it deserves and held a hearing on it.

For that reason, I am going to vote against it, and then I will be standing there, reminding my colleagues "I told you so" when I am also trying to help them fix the problem they are about to vote on to create.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

WYOMING PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2023

MALHEUR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR THE OWYHEE ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following bills: Calendar No. 422, which is S. 1348, and Calendar No. 501, which is S. 1890.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1348

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BUREAU.—The term "Bureau" means the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term "range improvement" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1902).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Wyoming.

(5) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term "wilderness area" means a wilderness area designated by section 3.