

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 55, Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Markwayne Mullin, Jim Justice, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Mike Crapo, John Hoeven, Bill Hagerty, Mike Rounds, Josh Hawley, Todd Young, Bernie Moreno, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch, John Barrasso.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 68.

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 Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 68, Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts,

Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 66.

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 Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 66, Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 61.

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 Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 61, Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume 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.

## HONORING THE COMMISSIONING OF USS "IOWA"

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, with great pride and admiration, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all involved in the commissioning of the USS *IOWA* (SSN 797), including commanding officer Gregory Coy. While I am sorry I cannot be with you in person, I would like to express my best wishes on this special occasion for the U.S. Navy and the great State of Iowa.

The USS *IOWA* will be a powerful symbol of our Nation's maritime strength and the unwavering spirit of those who serve in uniform. It honors the legacy of previous battleships named USS *IOWA*, which played pivotal roles during the Spanish-American War, World War II, and the Korean war. Today's commissioning reflects this rich history and underscores the U.S. Navy's 21st-century technological superiority and the essential role of nuclear fast-attack submarines in ensuring our Nation's undersea deterrence.

I commend the officers and crew of the USS *IOWA* for their courage and professionalism, and I recognize the families who support them in their

vital mission. As you embark on your service, know that you carry with you the gratitude of the American people. Your work is critical to safeguarding our Nation's security and preserving peace and stability worldwide.

As the USS *IOWA* joins the fleet, it will undoubtedly serve as a powerful reminder to both allies and adversaries of the strength and resolve of our Armed Forces. The State motto of Iowa, featured on the crest of the USS *IOWA*, is "Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain." This message encapsulates your ship's vital role in securing the liberties and rights we hold dear as Americans.

As a senator, a soldier, and an Iowan, it is truly an honor to congratulate you on this momentous occasion. May God Bless you all, may God Bless our men and women in uniform, and may God Bless America.

#### TRIBUTE TO CRAIG WILLIAMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate my friend and fellow Kentuckian Craig Williams for receiving the Defense Community Champions Award. He is one of 18 recipients this year across the country honored for making a difference in the defense community. I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing his impressive achievement, which is well deserved.

In his early years, Craig dutifully served our Nation as an Army translator solidifying his dedication to our country and to missions bigger than himself. This was only the tip of the iceberg when it came to his career of dedicated public service. After returning to the States, Craig refocused his attention on a pressing local issue that impacted thousands of his fellow neighbors in Richmond, KY, where over 500 tons of chemical warfare agents were stored at the Bluegrass Army Depot (BGAD).

President Ronald Reagan's call for a global prohibition on chemical weapons spurred much needed attention to the disposal of our Nation's stockpile. The Army's initial plan to destroy these weapons through incineration was cause for concern due to potential poison leaks into the greater Madison County community. Craig jumped into action, pursuing the daunting task of taking on the bureaucracy and holding our government accountable for the promise it made to safely dispose of these chemical weapons. While Craig and I may have seemed like unlikely political allies, I believed his cause was just, and I was ready to help him push government in the right direction to keep Kentuckians safe.

Our first victory together dates back to my first term in the U.S. Senate, when we put a stop to new munitions entering the Commonwealth. The success continued thanks to Craig's tireless advocacy work. In 1991, he founded a coalition consisting of over 40 representatives from around the world

known as the Chemical Weapons Working Group. Within just 2 years, Craig and his group successfully lobbied Congress to delay the incineration of the chemical weapons, forcing a further exploration of safer options. Thus began a 30-year march toward the final goal of total disposal.

I am proud to have helped Craig by fighting to bring home over \$7 billion in Federal funding to support the responsible destruction of these munitions. This project was nothing short of a team effort. Through Craig's work on the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, he served as dependable eyes and ears on the ground, ensuring effective communication and transparency between government and the public. Our relationship was built on trust, and it proved invaluable as we worked together to meet the needs of this project. In July 2023, our hard work alongside community partners paid off as the last chemical weapons at BGAD were destroyed.

Craig is well known for his work and was honored in 2006 with the Goldman Environmental Prize, an award inspired by the Nobel Prize. His story is one of true passion for the well-being of his neighbors and community. Our accomplishments together are proof that government functions best when working in tandem with the people it serves. I am confident Craig will continue to tackle the issues that matter most to him and will serve the public vigilantly in all of his future endeavors. Once again, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Craig on this distinguished award.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-721. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2025"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Joint Committee on Taxation; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-722. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-723. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, a notice of certain actions taken to address the continuing threat posed by the synthetic opioid supply chain originating in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-724. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-725. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Peace Corps' fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-726. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-727. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Surface Transportation Board, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report to Congress" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1305. A bill to allow for greater collaboration between the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the network of Manufacturing USA institutes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1306. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 1307. A bill to allow certain qualified law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms to protect children in school zones; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MORENO, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1308. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):