

one-fifth of the VA's workforce, including many who are veterans themselves—in fact, one-third of the VA's workforce are veterans:

We owe it to the Secretary in good faith to hear his full plan, which none of us have heard yet.

That is really the point. This issue is bigger than Sam Brown. It is about information that has been denied to our committee and to us as Senators.

The Secretary of the VA is actively working to undermine our bipartisan oversight efforts. Cuts have been made to contracts that delivered critical support and services to veterans. Despite multiple bipartisan requests, the Secretary refuses to share the list of canceled contracts. Thousands of VA employees have been bullied, driven off their jobs, or fired by Elon Musk and Secretary Collins. And there are plans to fire 83,000 employees, and we haven't seen those plans. All the Secretary has told us is that it is his goal and he will accomplish that goal. He denied us that basic information.

So I have said I am opposing this nomination until we are given the information and disclosure we need to do our jobs. The Secretary has issued a pause on rulemaking that effectively halts efforts underway to provide veterans, including K2 veterans suffering from radiation exposure, the benefits they desperately need, or PFAS victims or other victims of toxic exposure. And he has refused to indicate when this so-called pause will be lifted or whether it is permanent.

Again, we have a job to do, and we have a right to demand—in fact, the Constitution requires that we make that demand—the VA must be transparent and accountable. Instead, the Secretary has come before our committee. He dissembled, he obfuscated, he has attacked anyone who questions him, and he denies us the basic information—denies the American people the information—that he owes us.

My request is simple. If the President or my Republican colleagues believe that a certain nominee is a priority, come clean with the American people. Give us the information we need. What contracts have been canceled? Who is impacted by that action? What research has been stopped? Who has been fired, and who will be fired? What is the plan? Address the unprecedented levels of obstructionism from this administration and give the American people, including our Nation's veterans, the full and public debate they deserve.

For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, on the last Monday of May—less than 2 weeks away—we observe Memorial Day. As Americans, we gather at cemeteries and memorials worldwide to honor the courage, sacrifice, and legacy of the men and women who served and are now in their final resting place.

With the approach of Memorial Day, the U.S. Senate has the responsibility

to honor the servicemembers who died in service to our Nation. And we can, in part, do so by confirming a qualified leader as the Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs, CPT Sam Brown. We can do that while we wait for other things to occur. These things are not mutually exclusive. Captain Brown could begin to perform the duties of his office.

I urged my colleagues to do so today. Those laying of our veterans to rest with honor, serving their families with dignity—it is not a Republican or a Democratic issue—and our committee has worked side by side over a long period of time in that manner.

I am discouraged that we cannot work in that manner today to confirm this qualified and capable leader for the National Cemetery Administration. That position is responsible for carrying out our Nation's most solemn responsibilities in burying our veterans. It is incumbent upon us to confirm a nominee to lead the NCA and to lead it well. I believe CPT Sam Brown would do just that.

In his testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Captain Brown shared his story of suffering excruciating burns in the line of duty in Afghanistan. He recounted how, in the midst of his suffering and anguish, he heard his gunner shout the words: Sir, I've got you, as he worked to extinguish the flames, ultimately saving Captain Brown's life. That declaration of rescue, that cry for support, that message of hope is the same message of hope that Sam Brown will take with him to the National Cemetery Administration.

Under his leadership, NCA will be there to tell veterans' family members and loved ones: We've got you.

The National Cemetery Administration puts veterans first. Sam Brown will put veterans first. And it was my hope that this body could come together to put veterans first today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I respect the points that my colleague from Kansas has just made as chairman. We have worked together in a bipartisan way. I hope we will continue to work together to make sure that the National Cemetery Administration is given the resources it needs and the personnel that are required to make sure this Nation honors our veterans.

As we speak, members of that workforce, the National Cemetery Administration, have been fired or are being fired or will be fired. Resources may be strangled. We deserve to know—we need to know—to honor our veterans. That is the information we are demanding from this Secretary of the VA.

I respect the assurances that Sam Brown will do his job. But when he was asked specifically at his hearing whether, if directed by the President to take action that would break the law,

he responded that he could not “imagine a scenario where the President would ask me to do anything unlawful.” We know the President has asked members of this administration to do unlawful actions.

But the main point is bigger than Sam Brown. What are the resources that are being withheld in both workforce and dollars to expand our cemeteries as is required to make sure we provide places that honor our veterans? This basic information is an absolute prerequisite for us to do our job and assure that veterans are really honored on this Memorial Day and every day of the year.

We owe our veterans that honor—honor with action—every day, not just Memorial Day. Americans who lay wreaths this Memorial Day are entitled to know what dollars, what commitments, what plans there are for our national cemeteries. We need and deserve that disclosure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Rigas nomination be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote scheduled to start at 11:30 start immediately.

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

VOTE ON MACGREGOR NOMINATION

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Boozman	Capito
Barrasso	Britt	Cassidy
Blackburn	Budd	Collins

Cornyn	Husted	Mullin
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Cramer	Johnson	Paul
Crapo	Kelly	Ricketts
Curtis	Kennedy	Risch
Daines	King	Rounds
Ernst	Lankford	Schmitt
Fetterman	Lee	Scott (FL)
Fischer	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Gallego	Marshall	Sheehy
Grassley	McConnell	Sullivan
Hagerty	McCormick	Thune
Hawley	Moody	Tillis
Heinrich	Moran	Wicker
Hoeven	Moreno	Young

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Schiff
Baldwin	Kim	Schumer
Bennet	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Lujan	Slotkin
Booker	Markley	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murphy	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Durbin	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	
Hirono	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Rochester	Graham	Sanders
Cruz		Justice	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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. 42, Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Mullin
Blackburn	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Husted	Ricketts
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Justice	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shaheen
Crapo	Lummis	Sheehy
Cruz	Marshall	Sullivan
Curtis	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McCormick	Tillis
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Peters
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markley	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Cramer	Sanders
Graham	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

TRUMP FAMILY

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, today, I want to talk about "The Art of the Deal" because Donald Trump has been busy making deals. Not his promised trade deals. Those are heavy on promises but very light on actual deals. Not any deals in Congress to lower costs for the American people. That could make it easier to afford a home or to buy groceries. In fact, with fewer cargo ships arriving at our ports and our closest allies and neighbors boycotting American goods, the President has done nothing but make your life more difficult. Medicaid is under attack. Social Security offices are closing by the dozens. Food assistance, rental assistance, energy assistance—all on the chopping block. There is no end to the destruction.

The first 114 days of this administration have been one bad deal after another for American families, but if your last name is "Trump," these 114

days have been just about the greatest deal of all time: new airplanes from your friends in the Gulf, new hotel deals, new golf courses, new meme coins, new towers. New income is flowing into the Trump family. You name it—Donald Trump and his family are cashing in.

So, today, I want to highlight just a few of those deals for the Trump family, how he is lining his own pockets and fleecing the rest of us in the process, how his family is getting even richer while the rest of us are treated like suckers.

Today, I want to talk about the 10 best deals for Donald Trump and the worst deals for the American people, how the graft is on full display and how you, the American people, are being left holding the bag. You don't have to look far from the White House to find some of the most flagrant examples.

Entering in at No. 10 of the top 10 deals for Donald Trump and the worst deals for the American people, we only need to look at the south lawn. We all saw this happen on the White House grounds—Donald Trump and Elon Musk turning the place into a Tesla showroom. But what you might have missed is what happened before and after this photo was taken.

Just before Trump turned the White House grounds into a used car lot, Tesla stock had been in a historic and disastrous slump. With their market value cut in half since December, Musk needed a jolt to his ailing company, and he got it.

When the President was asked whether his symbolic purchase of a Tesla at the White House might help the company's stock, Trump said:

I hope it does.

But that wasn't all because the best part of the deal for Donald Trump took place after the Teslas had been driven away and the cameras had been packed up. Not long after the special livestream on X or Twitter had ended, something even more important happened. With Tesla's shares on the rebound, Elon Musk promised to pump \$100 million into Donald Trump's political operation. That is right. Donald Trump received one of the largest political contributions in American history, all for the price of one measly Tesla Model S and the use of the White House as a salesroom—a damn good deal for Donald Trump, if you ask me. For you, the American taxpayer, nothing at all. Zero. Zilch. Nada. All you got was being taken for a ride.

For No. 9 of the best deals for Donald Trump, we have to zoom down to Mar-a-Lago, where you can generally find the President golfing on your dime and lining his pockets in the process. We saw this during the first Trump administration, but at that time, he was still finishing the front nine.

During his first term, Donald Trump made an astounding 473 trips to his own golf courses while in office, but this term, he seems determined to go for the club record. In just his first 100