

give some relief to our law enforcement officers across this country so that they don't have to continue to see stories and tragedies like Taryn Lee Griffith.

We have got to make sure we are supporting our law enforcement officers. I will continue to fight to give our law enforcement officers the tools they need. I co-led the Back the Blue Act, which would increase the penalties for those criminals who are targeting law enforcement officers and give law enforcement other tools to protect themselves.

My colleague from North Dakota was just talking about the Thin Blue Line Act, and I am a cosponsor of that as well. Senator CRUZ introduced that bill.

We need to make sure we, in the Congress, are doing what we can to support our law enforcement officers.

During this Police Week, we also recognize those officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Ross Bartlett was a police officer from Ceresco, NE, Police Department. He lost his life in the line of duty.

His cruiser was rammed by a driver who allegedly was distracted while texting and came into the shoulder. He was killed last year.

This week, his family is in Washington, DC, as part of Police Week, and they rented an Airbnb in Maryland. When the owner of that Airbnb discovered why they were here—and by the way, that owner is a Capitol Police officer—when that Capitol Police officer found out why they were there, he comped their entire stay this week at that Airbnb.

That is the demonstration of the brotherhood and sisterhood among law enforcement officers, and it is one of the stories that all too often gets overlooked of how our law enforcement officers take care of each other as well as take care of our communities.

We recognize the loss of the Bartlett family and honor Ross Bartlett for his service and sacrifice to the community of Ceresco and our State of Nebraska.

During Police Week, I encourage everyone in Nebraska and across the country to say thank you to our law enforcement officers. These women and men protect our communities and sacrifice much for us. Say thank you this week and every week throughout the year and recognize and honor what they do for us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 2:15 vote start now.

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

VOTE ON RIGAS NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Marshall	Tuberville
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Michael nomination.

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

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 senior assistant executive 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. 72, Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, James E. Risch, Jon A. Husted, James Lankford, Katie Boyd Britt, John Hoeven, Kevin Cramer, Bernie Moreno, Bill Hagerty, Chuck Grassley.

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 Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

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

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—4

Durbin	Tillis
Graham	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The yeas are 53, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, having been a U.S. Senator for exactly 131 days, I am attempting to follow the advice of my great-grandmother. We are very proud of her. She was the first woman school board president of the Salt Lake City School District. Grandma Genevieve. We called her Nana. She said:

Listen first, speak when it matters, and let your actions carry the weight.

That may sound like it is radical in our social media-driven world here in DC, but I am committed to following her advice.

As I begin my service in the Senate, it matters to me that both what is said and what is done in this body will not just make noise but will actually make a difference for the citizens of the Nation.

Ten days ago, I invited the citizens of Utah and the Nation to join me in my preparation for this maiden floor speech today. I invited them and all of you to join me virtually and go places that speak to the heart and the soul of this Nation.

I visited four places where our bedrock strength and enduring principles are found and where I believe our bold future will begin. I have called it my "Think Before You Speak: A Pilgrimage to American Principles" tour.

I began my journey with a hike to Ensign Peak. It is a small hill just above the Salt Lake Valley. It is where my pioneer ancestors went to talk about pioneer values and visions. Just after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, my pioneer ancestors climbed that very peak. What they saw there wasn't what was but what would be.

They looked out over a barren desert—and I am talking not hardly a tree—in the Salt Lake Valley. They envisioned a home for faith and family and a crossroads not just for the West but for the world. President Gordon B. Hinckley, who is a pioneer descendant and a leader of the church, once reflected on that moment atop Ensign Peak. He said if a reporter had been there that July morning of 1847, they would have scoffed at the idea.

Imagine this: a ragtag group of exiles driven from their homes, standing in worn-out boots that they had walked 1,000 miles in, nearly 1,000 miles away from the nearest settlement. They were in an untried climate. They had never raised a crop there. They had not built a structure of any kind.

What were they thinking? Well, they didn't just dream. They came down from that peak and went to work.

As I stood at that summit, I had a strong wind against my face, and I

couldn't help but think of my pioneer ancestors, who faced those same winds with much heavier burdens. I saw them pushing forward with courage and faith, laying the foundation for the life we now enjoy.

From that hike, up there on the hill, I couldn't see beneath the green canopy. That same place where there was hardly a tree now had a green canopy. But even though I couldn't see it all, I knew the secret to Utah's success. And if you have been there, you know it too. It is the people—people known for their kindness, for their hard work, for their resilience, for their independence, and for their deep, abiding faith in God. The spirit that built this place is still alive, and it calls us all to be what our pioneer ancestors need us to be for the generations they saw.

We don't get everything right in Utah, but we built something remarkable: a strong economy, a fiscally responsible government, educational opportunities, and real upward mobility. Those aren't accidents. Washington could use a little more Ensign Peak thinking and a lot more pioneer doing.

My listening tour next took me to hallowed ground. When I visited Arlington National Cemetery, I found myself drawn to reading the names and the words on those white stones—Korea, World War I, World War II, Vietnam—and where names should have been: unknown, unknown, unknown; and occasionally, strangely, on the back of the markers, names like Ruth, Ethel, Alta, and the words "His Wife."

I paused, and I tried to hear the voices of those who rest in that sacred ground. What would they say to me, to us U.S. Senators, charged with safeguarding the Constitution and the freedom they gave their lives to defend?

Sometimes, those voices whispered gently, but sometimes they speak with striking clarity, and never, ever do they ask my political party. Those honored dead don't care if future generations have the latest gadgets or a life of ease, but they do care deeply that those generations have souls—souls with the strength forged by doing hard things; souls that cherish freedom, pursue peace, and carry the moral courage to stand for what is right.

They remind me that the Constitution was not just a clever document; it was and remains divinely inspired. President Ronald Reagan said:

Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit.

Those who rest beneath the white stones at Arlington didn't die just so Americans could live free. They died so that freedom could take root wherever the human spirit longs for it. Their legacy isn't just national; it is universal. Their sacrifice calls us to something higher.

Two headstones right next to each other caught my attention: William W. Kirby and William W. Kirby, Jr. The father had fought in World War I and lived 85 years. The son fought in World War II and died in combat, earning the Purple Heart, at age 20.

Then it hit me: family. I recognized that families fight for freedom. As Americans, we should all stand at Arlington as if we lost our son, our daughter, our wife, our friend—because we have. Our honored dead are indeed our brothers and sisters. So let's remember that we honor best those who have gone before by standing for freedom today.

I walked into the Holocaust Museum alone, but if you have been there, you know I wasn't alone; I was surrounded by thousands of young Americans. And I found myself wondering: Do they see what I see, or do they see without seeing and hear without understanding?

This place forces us to confront the darkest chapters of human history and ask whether we have really learned the lessons. As I walked the halls, I was struck by how easily a human life can be devalued. And I kept asking: How? How did so many participate? How did others stand by? How did some serve to enable? And how have so many already forgotten?

The late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks once identified both the problem and the solution when he warned:

When morality is outsourced to either the market or the state, society has no substance, only systems. And systems are not enough.

Today, we are outsourcing more than just governance. We are outsourcing responsibility. Congress outsources lawmaking to the executive branch. Communities outsource compassion to agencies. Parents outsource teaching values to institutions. Citizens outsource critical thinking to curated social media. And far too often, we outsource the truth itself to voices that might be loud but not always wise.

Rabbi Sacks also said:

Morality cannot be outsourced because it depends on each of us.

The Holocaust Museum reminds us that truth, like morality, must be studied, not streamed; learned, not assigned; and understood with the weight of history, not just the opinions of the moment.

The values our Nation needs—moral clarity, historical understanding, a commitment to peace—can't be manufactured by government or mass-produced by culture. They must be grown, like they always have been, in the cottage industries of family and communities.

For my fourth visit, I went to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, because I believe unity starts with understanding. Like many Americans, I wasn't raised with firsthand experiences of the injustices faced by Black Americans, Native Americans, and others who have endured the heavy burden of prejudice, but I have come to understand that listening and learning are not one-time acts. They require humility, honesty, and a lifetime commitment.

As I walked through the museum, I found myself thinking of and hearing