

and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise this evening to recognize and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Army. I would yield to the Senator from Rhode Island, my colleague but the cochair of the Senate Army Caucus, Senator REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague and friend in Kansas for his partnership in recognizing the Army as the coleaders of the Army Caucus here in the U.S. Senate.

Thank you, Senator, very much.

Mr. President, I rise, along with my colleague from Kansas, to recognize a remarkable moment in our Nation's history. On June 14, 1775, delegates from each of the American Colonies met in Philadelphia to convene the Second Continental Congress.

On that momentous day, Congress voted to establish the Continental Army and tasked it to "provide for the common defense of these colonies."

The following day, the Congress unanimously elected George Washington to be the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. It was an auspicious start for what would become the greatest fighting force the world has ever known.

Today—or in a few days, certainly—we celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army.

The Army has a straightforward, but enormously critical, mission: to fight and win the Nation's wars. Today, we take a moment to reflect on that mission and to honor all of the soldiers who have served faithfully in the Army ranks. Whether as volunteers or in response to a draft, millions and millions of men and women have answered the call to serve. They each swore an oath to the Constitution, a unique feature of service to our Nation. By swearing an oath to the Constitution and its ideals, rather than a leader or a party, American soldiers stand apart as patriots, not partisans. And our Nation stands proudly throughout the world.

American soldiers have served on their own soil to break the bonds of tyranny and to keep our Nation united. They have served on foreign soils to defend our allies, uphold humanity, and protect the American people. And they have stepped forward to help in humanitarian crises and natural disasters at home and around the world when needed most.

It is also fitting to acknowledge the contribution of the Department of Army civilians, who take the same oath and who bring their skills and dedication to bear in support of the Army's mission.

And, of course, we also pause to thank all of the families who, over the course of 2½ centuries have stood by

their loved ones in their service—families who supported their soldiers in the earliest days with little or no communication to today, where family witness in real time the challenges their loved ones face. Families have and always will be the true strength of our Army.

The Army's story also is not just one of battles won, but of values upheld, values of leadership, respect, selfless service, integrity, and personal courage—and a value that resonates deeply with me: duty, honor, country.

Finally, we pay tribute to those who gave the last full measure of devotion in service to our Nation. Their sacrifice is woven into the very fabric of our history, and their legacy lives on in every soldier who raises their right hand and takes the oath.

For me personally, the opportunity to serve as an officer in the U.S. Army and to lead American soldiers was the greatest privilege of my life.

I would end by recalling the enduring motto of the Continental Army:

This we'll defend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island, my colleague and friend Senator REED, for cochairing. I am the new one to this duo, and I consider it a privilege as a U.S. Senator to serve side by side with Senator REED as we work together to promote and support the U.S. Army and those who serve in it.

I also would highlight and honor my respect of Senator Jim Inhofe, the Senator of Oklahoma whom I replaced in this capacity after his long tenure with Senator REED in serving in this capacity to support and defend the Army of the United States.

As Senator REED said, 250 years ago—that is the birthday we are celebrating—on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized what would become the most capable and lethal ground force the world has ever known—the U.S. Army. The creation of General George Washington's Army coincides with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Since our Nation gained its independence, our Army has faithfully defended our freedoms. The Warrior Ethos of the Army states:

I will always place the mission first.

This is a calling that American soldiers have answered time and time again without regard to their personal safety, security, or comfort.

My State of Kansas is home to Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Leavenworth, as well as the Kansas Army National Guard. The men and women who serve in these bases are some of the finest individuals I have ever met, living their lives in accordance with the mission on the Army flag: "This We'll Defend." This short statement is a commitment to defending this Nation, all Americans, and the values we hold dear.

The embodiment of what it means to be an American soldier is symbolized in the Army's values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Over the years, the servicemembers of the Army have lived up to these ideals, putting their country and fellow citizens above themselves. No matter how daunting the conflict, American soldiers will always carry out the mission entrusted to them. Today, we recognize this valor and celebrate the patriotism that motivates these brave men and women who dedicate their lives to defend the land that they and we love.

The U.S. Army is the largest branch of the U.S. military, with nearly 450,000 Active-Duty personnel and nearly 500,000 in the Reserves.

As we mark the 250 years of the U.S. Army, we express our gratitude to these servicemembers and their loved ones who support them. For two and a half centuries—250 years—the American soldiers have stood strong in the face of conflict.

I am committed to continue supporting our Army so that it remains the strongest lethal force in the world for another 250 years. I hope my colleagues will join me and Senator REED in honoring our soldiers and supporting a resolution to mark the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

Today, in this effort, we are reminded to say to those who serve, have served, and will serve, we tell them—those who served and have served and will serve in the U.S. Army—we say to them that we respect you; we love you; we thank you for your service.

I yield the floor and thank you for the opportunity for making my remarks.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MORAN. 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. MORAN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 120.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MORAN. 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 assistant 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. 120, John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, David McCormick, Ted Budd, Roger Marshall, Cynthia M. Lummis, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Mike Crapo, John R. Curtis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Bill Hagerty, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MORAN. 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. MORAN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 111.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MORAN. 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 assistant 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. 111, Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee, Jon A. Husted, Josh Hawley, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, Markwayne Mullin, James Lankford, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Katie Boyd Britt, Lindsey Graham, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, that at 11:45 on Wednesday, June 4, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 119, Michelle Bowman, and if cloture is invoked, all

postcloture time be expired at 6 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Bowman nomination; further, following the cloture vote on the Bowman nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 129, Edward Walsh, and if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Walsh nomination following disposition of the Bowman nomination; further, at 2 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 144, James O'Neill, and if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired and on Thursday, June 4, the Senate vote on confirmation of the O'Neill nomination at 11:30 a.m.; finally, if any of the nominations are confirmed during Wednesday and Thursday's sessions of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. 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.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, on May 19, 2025, I provided a statement for the RECORD of my intent to object to the Senate proceeding to any of the four nominations currently pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA.

Today, I am reaffirming those four objections and stating my intent to object to the Senate proceeding to three additional EPA nominations, if and when they are added to the Senate's Executive Calendar.

I do not raise these objections lightly. I recognize the importance of Federal Agencies having qualified leadership, regardless of which party is in charge. In several cases, I have voted in favor of reporting the current administration's nominees out of committee and to confirm them on the Senate floor, notwithstanding the political and policy differences that we may have. But the Senate's constitutional role to advise and consent regarding executive branch nominations is an important check on Agency leadership's abuse and overreach and raising these objections regarding EPA nominations is my duty on behalf of people of the State of California.

I am objecting to expedited consideration of EPA nominees in response to the Trump Administration EPA's abuse of the Congressional Review Act—CRA—by submitting three waivers issued to the State of California to Congress and claiming they are "rules" under the CRA despite the Government Accountability Office's clear determination they are not.

In May, I stated that I would continue these objections unless the Trump administration's EPA withdrew the waivers it knowingly and falsely submitted as rules or the majority leader committed to not overturning the Senate Parliamentarian's determination that these waivers are not rules entitled to expedited consideration in the Senate under the CRA.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration and the Republican majority plowed ahead with an unprecedented power grab at the expense of the health of millions of children and families in California and many other States. They took advantage of EPA's abuse of the CRA to throw out the rulebook, first overriding the procedural limits in the text of the CRA itself and then by overturning the Parliamentarian's decision, all in their quest to take away California's authority under the Clean Air Act.

This is unacceptable. California has done nearly all it can do to reduce emissions from stationary sources of air pollution within its jurisdiction. Given our unique air quality challenges and the worsening impacts of climate change, it is essential for our State to reduce pollution from mobile sources such as cars and trucks if the Federal Government will not do so itself. That is why Congress has provided this waiver authority to our State for decades, and it has been used over 100 times. But now, as a result of the Trump EPA and Senate Republicans' abuse of the CRA, the people of California will be forced to breathe more toxic air pollution and suffer increasingly devastating impacts of climate change.

To hold the Agency's leadership accountable for their actions, I am reaffirming my objection to proceeding to the four nominations pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar and expanding it to include additional nominations.

As of June 2, there are three additional Trump administration EPA nominations in the committee process, four Senate-confirmed positions for which the President has not yet made a nomination, and the inspector general position, for which the President has yet to make a nomination.

I want to make clear to my colleagues that I intend to object to the Senate proceeding to all nominations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, except for the vacancy for the EPA Inspector General, unless acceptable accommodations are reached for the State of California's to protect the health of its people.