

Moran	Rosen	Thune
Moreno	Rounds	Tillis
Mullin	Schmitt	Tuberville
Murkowski	Scott (FL)	Warnock
Paul	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Reed	Sheehy	Young
Ricketts	Slotkin	
Risch	Sullivan	

NAYS—35

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—4

Banks	Gallego
Coons	Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table; the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, good afternoon. My name is JON HUSTED, and I have the distinct honor of serving the great State of Ohio as one of its U.S. Senators.

Over the past 25 years, I have been blessed to serve the people of Ohio as a State representative, speaker of the house, secretary of state, and most recently as Lieutenant Governor.

I am constantly reminded of the sacrifices generations of Americans and Ohioans have made in the hope that they will leave their country in a better place than they found it. And it is this pattern of sacrifice that I have also witnessed throughout my life growing up in the Midwest.

So I would like to take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices others have made that have led to this moment in time and our responsibility as Americans to our children and to our country.

So let me start at the beginning, at least for me. I was born in 1967, which was part of one of the most turbulent decades in American history.

My start in life reflected those turbulent times. My birth mother lost her husband in the Vietnam war, and she found herself with multiple children to care for without anyone to share that responsibility.

Then she learned that there was another baby on the way—and that baby

was me. While I can never truly know how the circumstances affected her and why she made the choice that she did, I would like to believe that out of a loving heart and full of courage and selflessness that she gave me a chance to be adopted. My birth certificate reports that I was born in Michigan, but let me reassure you: I was made in Ohio.

You see, during the fall of 1967, after 2 months in a foster home, I was blessed to become the first child of two humble, hard-working people from northwest Ohio Jim and Judy Husted. Even then, among the protests and the upheaval happening across the Nation, my parents were full of hope and optimism as they welcomed a new son into their home.

They have always embodied the American tradition: that each generation works and sacrifices today so that the next generation can climb higher mountains tomorrow.

That is the example my parents set as I grew up on County Road J near Montpelier, OH. Life was not easy for them. Like many families in the small towns in the industrial Midwest, we weathered factory closures. Several of my own family members lost their jobs when the machine tool factory they worked at shut down. But they faced hard times before, tough times make you tough and resilient, resilient enough to uproot your family, start over, and keep sacrificing for your family's well-being. And that is what they all did.

My parents worked hard and never wasted a penny. They routinely made choices that made their lives harder so that they could make my life and my brother and sister's life a little easier.

What I saw growing up in rural Ohio was simple but powerful, and it characterized communities across this country too. People worked long hours, forfeiting comfort and leisure so that their families, and especially their children, could enjoy more security and prosperity than they had.

These diligent men and women may not have called their daily responsibilities on the factory floors or in the fields the American dream, but that is what it was. That is what they were striving to achieve.

I believe this love for family and Nation, this aspirational hope that we have, has driven America's generations to risk their lives and livelihoods so that we could create the freest, most prosperous country in the world.

The early settlers didn't sail across the Atlantic's high seas for fun and adventure; they came to build a legacy of opportunity and liberty that their homeland had denied them, but nothing guaranteed their future. They earned it through courage, toil, and sacrifice.

I know this, the noise of the 24-hour news cycle makes it easy to lose perspective when you are here in Washington. I know it does. But if you step into the Capitol Rotunda and you look

up at the storied paintings all around that dome, you will be reminded of an enduring pattern: Americans built this Nation through personal sacrifice, often at a steep human cost.

In 1620, the settlers at Plymouth faced hunger, disease, and death as they launched into a new world where they hoped to establish religious freedom.

In 1776, their descendants picked up that torch by risking everything to break free of the monarchy. When the Founders signed the Declaration of Independence, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor—a wager not just for themselves, but on behalf of their children and future generations.

At Valley Forge, liberty nearly froze to death, but those who endured did so "to form a more perfect Union." They fought not just for freedom but for justice, peace, and the blessings of liberty, for their posterity—that is us.

In 1861, Americans turned on one another so they could preserve the Nation and abolish slavery. They paid with blood. Then they returned to their fields and their towns and sought to rebuild a more cohesive nation, one capable of innovation, lasting growth, and a new hope.

By the early 1900s, Americans led a second revolution—this, the industrial revolution. In a free nation and economy, workers and entrepreneurs built new industries, fought for fair working conditions, and laid the foundations for the prosperity we enjoy today.

Immigrants came through Ellis and Angel Islands with hope in their hearts and the willingness to work hard, and America embraced them.

In World War II, young men crossed oceans to fight tyranny, and women stepped onto factory floors to build the arsenal of victory. When it was all over, they followed their forefathers' faithfulness by coming home and building schools, churches, and businesses—in other words, a future.

The "greatest generation" carried that burden for their children and for ours. The men and women who fought and endured daily hardships during the Second World War understood what I worry many Americans nearly have forgotten, which is that the heavier the load you choose to carry, the higher you can hold your head, and doing what is noble builds confidence. I believe that is true of people and of nations.

For nearly two centuries, Americans weren't focused on indulgence but on inheritance. To be clear, I am not talking about the kind of inheritance measured in dollars but, instead, the kind measured in duty, making tomorrow better than today.

Mr. President, you may be tempted to correct me here. Why would I only credit us with two centuries of discipline when, after all, we turn 250 years old next year? Let me take a moment to explain.

This American ethos endured for most of our history, but I believe something shifted in our culture around the

time I was born. Our society began to leverage the security that earlier Americans won for tomorrow in order to avoid the challenges of the day. Courageous people don't do that.

Even a few years before I was born, I believe President Kennedy had already begun to detect the shift. In his inaugural address, he implored Americans to do one thing:

Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

A nation that once rallied around sacrifice—in war, in rebuilding, in laying foundations for the future—gave way to a new cultural mood. Over time, we stopped asking “What can we build and leave for the ones we love?” and we began to ask “What can we claim for ourselves?” We became obsessed with what we as individuals are entitled to, and we forgot how to plant the seeds and nurture them until the harvest. The sense of shared responsibility that had defined generations was eroded. Our growing reliance on promises we felt others owed to us meant that we earned less and expected more.

We initially built a safety net to protect people in need and our most vulnerable citizens, which is a noble idea and one that I support, but, over time, that safety net stretched wider and wider until nearly everybody was lying in it.

As the cost of our promises ballooned, we lacked the will to either pay for them or the courage to pare them back. So what did we do instead? We did what previous generations refused to do: We passed the buck by handing the bill off to our children. Instead of sacrificing for the next generation, we passed the burden on to them.

It was a convenient deception. Congress created more programs that it wouldn't pay for. Public officials made promises they couldn't keep. They convinced their constituents that Americans who come of age after us would take care of tomorrow all by themselves. We also fought wars and engaged in foreign interventions without paying for them. It all adds up.

All the while, our national debt kept rising. I am not just talking about dollars; America began experiencing a real character deficit. We weren't just spending money; we were squandering trust, legacy, and time at the expense of the boys and girls who were too young to even vote or recognize a better path than the one we had chosen for them. We soothed ourselves by claiming that we were being compassionate, but we passed on the consequences of our choices to those not yet born. This is not compassion; it is generational theft.

In 1967, when I was born, the national debt stood at \$330 billion. Today, it is \$36 trillion—more than 100 times greater even after adjusting for inflation. In 2024 alone, we ran a \$1.8 trillion deficit. A baby born in America today inherits \$106,000 as their share of the national debt on day one.

So what happened to American ingenuity, resolve, and discipline? What

happened to it? How did a nation once defined by sacrifice for our kids—think about it—become one that was willing to pilfer their piggy banks?

We have some urgent challenges. Twenty-first century Americans are not being asked to storm Normandy's beaches or endure winters at Valley Forge. The task upon us may seem less heroic, but it remains both daunting and deeply patriotic. What is that task? To simply stop spending more than we are willing to pay for today.

The question isn't just “How did America's financial and cultural debt get so deep?” It is “How can we claw our way out of this financial and cultural hole?” The answer comes down to identifying what we value and what we believe is worth the sacrifice.

For me, that is my family and my country. I love them both, and I know many of you share those same sentiments. I believe that we only sacrifice for the things we love. I will repeat that. I believe we only sacrifice for the things we love. That is why it is crucial and consequential that we remind ourselves and instruct our children to love this country, reminding ourselves that this pattern and promise of American liberty forged a noble, innovative nation that is worth loving and worth fighting for, because why would anyone sacrifice for a nation they don't love or for neighbors they don't feel a patriotic affection for?

America has been self-aware from the beginning. We never thought we were perfect. But every generation is supposed to put in the sweat and tears to form a more perfect Union.

We were the first Nation rooted in the confidence that our rights come not from Kings or governments but from God, that we are endowed by our Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is a beautiful thought. That idea is exceptional. This country is exceptional. There are none like it in the world, and we must teach the next generation what our countrymen sacrificed to secure. And that is why this Nation is worth loving with an active and enduring patriotism.

Loving America doesn't mean agreeing with every policy or politician. It is not required. But it does require being confident in the idea of America and being willing to sacrifice for the cause of this Nation—not in the abstract but in real ways: by being good stewards of what was handed down to us and honoring those who came before us by adopting their discipline and by becoming the kind of neighbors who are willing to work a little harder, take a little less, and give a little more to preserve what has made this country great.

I stand here today as the beneficiary of those who sacrificed for me and for all of us. I was blessed to be adopted into a loving home where they taught me that faith, family, freedom, and hard work are the most reliable anecdotes for poverty and despair the world has ever known.

We are still a nation where a newborn can begin life in a foster home in Detroit, grow up in the rural Midwest, and have the honor of serving as a U.S. Senator.

As Americans, no matter our background, whether we come from abundance or struggle, we have all inherited the gift of freedom, passed down from earlier Americans. We stand on their shoulders.

Let's not force the next generation to remember us as the ones who broke the two-centuries-long chain of self-sacrifice but, rather, as the ones who reformed it.

To my colleagues and constituents, count me in as one who is willing to do my part, to work hard, forgo convenience, and reinforce that chain that will sustain our Nation for future generations.

I will listen to your ideas, and I hope you will listen to mine. I will operate from the principled belief that we must elevate liberty and personal responsibility above expediency and entitlement and that our children should not have to pay the price for our lack of discipline.

The America I aspire to serve is defined by courage and a love that refuses to take more than it gives.

As it has so many times in our history, may these convictions prevail in this Chamber and in the classrooms, boardrooms, break rooms, and living rooms of these United States. Consider this my prayer for our Nation, and may God work through us to make it so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO JON HUSTED

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I had the opportunity to meet Senator HUSTED when he was State Representative Husted about 15, maybe 20 years ago. I don't want to age myself. I was down in Columbus meeting a few State reps down there, and I see this guy and go: Man, who is that young guy who sounded really, really smart? I walked up to him and introduced myself. It was JON HUSTED.

In that period of time, what I have seen is a great person. He is not just a great public servant. This is somebody who could have spent his entire adult life making a lot of money. He is a very smart and gifted person. Instead, he has dedicated his entire time to actually making this country better. The reason for that you just heard today. He is somebody who is a deep person of faith, who is a great father, a great husband, and honestly a great friend.

So, look, don't take my word for it. The Senator does not know that I did this. So I think you owe it to hear.

So here is just a sampling of what the people in Ohio said based on a simple request: Tell me what you think of Senator HUSTED.

Let me start with the first one:

JON has excelled in every public office he has held . . . as a legislator, Speaker of the Ohio House, Secretary of State and Lieutenant Governor. I worked with JON on a daily