



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

No. 184

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who stretches out the heavens, have mercy upon our Nation and world.

Lord, during a government shutdown, friendships are often fractured by words spoken in this Chamber, for the tongue can bring life or death. Inspire our lawmakers to be quick to dispense the balm of forgiveness by resolving anger quickly before it festers and causes more harm. May their efforts to not create further divisions in relationships bring glory to Your merciful Name.

And, Lord, comfort those who feel the pain of grief because of the death of former Vice President Dick Cheney. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

REMEMBERING DICK CHENEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, you heard the Chaplain refer to the death of former Vice President Dick Cheney. The family announced that early this morning.

Dick Cheney lived a life of service to his country. He was bit by the political bug, biting him very early in his life, and he was committed in his entire life to public service. He served as White House Chief of Staff under President Ford. He was a Congressman for the people of Wyoming. He was the 17th Secretary of Defense and the 45th Vice President of the United States. Dick Cheney was a part of American history for more than five decades.

Barbara and I will pray for Dick's family as they mourn the loss of a beloved family member.

CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to compliment Erika Kirk, wife of the assassinated conservative leader Charlie Kirk. She has made the emotional appeal to have cameras in the courtroom at the trial of her husband's murderer. I commend her for this brave plea because it fits in with a stand I have been taking for the last couple of decades.

Courts at both the State and Federal level have a massive impact on our daily lives and the lives of generations to come. Yet few Americans get the chance to see the Nation's courts in action. That is almost totally true of Federal courts. I believe most States do allow cameras in the courtrooms, although not necessarily required under State procedure in State courtrooms.

I have long held that cameras should be present in the Federal courts, including the Supreme Court, because what I said about State courts is not yet a requirement in Federal courts. Cameras would boost transparency and help Americans grow in confidence and

understanding of the Federal Judiciary if we had cameras in the Federal courtrooms.

It has been maybe a joke that a couple of the Supreme Court Justices said that having cameras at the Supreme Court would be over their dead body. I don't wish anybody at the Federal court, whether they are liberals or conservatives on that court, to pass because of cameras in the courtrooms, but I happen to believe that cameras in the Federal courts, like State courts, would boost transparency and help Americans grow in confidence and understanding of the Judiciary.

When pivotal moments in history happen, we shouldn't be timid in calling for greater transparency that history demands in the Federal courts.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S7877

and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

REMEMBERING DICK CHENEY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, like many Americans, I was saddened to learn this morning of the death of former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Dick was a lifelong public servant who believed very deeply in our country and brought his considerable knowledge and intelligence to its service. As the Secretary of Defense and later as Vice President, he played a key role in shaping policy on many of the most consequential issues of his day. He was also an avid outdoorsman and fly fisherman who loved spending time in the mountains of his home State. I enjoyed having him in South Dakota and showing off some of what our State has to offer.

My thoughts and prayers today are with Lynne, his wife; with his two beloved daughters; and with his seven grandchildren.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, "Every day gets better for us." Those were the words of the Democrat leader a week into the shutdown, reflecting on the supposed benefits—political benefits—for Senate Democrats. I guess it is nice that every day is getting better for Senate Democrats because it sure isn't getting better for anyone else.

We are in the sixth week of the Democrat shutdown. That is right—the sixth week—and Democrats' victims are everywhere. Let's just go through a few headlines. These are some headlines from newspapers and news outlets around the country.

Some Head Start preschools shutter as government shutdown continues.

Shutdown crushes small business owners as losses hit billions—industry leaders beg Congress for "clean CR."

"Everyone is worried": Dallas SNAP recipients navigate uncertainty, dwindling funds.

That is the Democrats' shutdown at work.

Here is another headline:

After a month of the shutdown, workers face mounting bills, car repossessions.

And the subhead to that article said this:

Finances are becoming dire for the more than 750,000 government workers who have been going without pay [now] for a full month.

Here are some more headlines:

Flight delays pile up as government shutdown enters second month.

Worst weekend for air traffic controller staffing since start of shutdown.

Flight delays could worsen as government shutdown drags on.

"Could worsen"—and we are entering one of the busiest travel seasons of the year, with people making holiday plans with their families.

There are a lot more headlines where those came from. People are suffering all because Democrats can't bring themselves to accept a clean, non-partisan funding bill.

The list of people begging Democrats to pass a clean government funding ex-

tension is long, and it is growing longer. The Teamsters Union, the New York City steamfitters union, the American Federation of Government Employees, multiple airline pilot unions, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, business organizations like the National Restaurant Association. I could go on. All of these organizations are begging Democrats to take yes for an answer and support a clean, nonpartisan bill—the one sitting right there at the desk that is available to be picked up and passed today, sent to the President, signed into law, and the government opens. But Democrats are recalcitrant. For a party that claims to represent working people, it is striking to me how very little Democrats seem to care about working people during this shutdown.

The senior Democrat from Vermont published an op-ed this weekend in which he called for this shutdown to keep going—forever as far as I can tell. Of course, he attempts to claim that Democrats are doing this for working people, to which I say: Give me a break.

Democrats are injuring working people with their shutdown. Maybe Democrats have no idea what it is like to live paycheck to paycheck like so many Americans, including many government employees. But let me just tell them there are a whole lot of working people out there who can't afford to miss a single paycheck, much less the multiple paychecks that they have now missed thanks to the Senate Democrats. And beyond the people Democrats have directly deprived of paychecks, there are a lot of other people whose livelihoods are being affected by this shutdown, like small business owners and employees whose incomes have declined because the Federal workers who usually patronize their businesses are out of work. There is really nothing Democrats can do to make that right, but they can at least make sure that they don't extend the pain that people are experiencing.

Later today, we are going to vote once again on a clean, nonpartisan funding extension—the one we have voted on 13 times already, the one sitting right at the desk—that would open this government today and make sure that all of those Americans will get paid. We just need five Democrats to join the three who are already voting with us, and we could end all of this pain and reopen the government. That is all it takes—five Democrats.

Everybody knows—and follows our government and this process—that, in the Senate, it takes a supermajority. It takes 60 votes to do virtually anything. So we need help. We need help from some Democrats with a backbone who are courageous enough to take on their leftwing base and do the right thing for the American people.

I do realize that Democrats are facing tremendous pressure from the far-left wing of their party, which is apparently content to see working people

suffer as long as Democrats make a good show of opposing President Trump, but I hope—I hope—that there are at least those five Democrats out there who will look at the pain that people are experiencing and will say: Enough is enough.

We are in the sixth week now of this shutdown—the sixth week. While every day may be getting better for Senate Democrats, thanks to Senate Democrats, every day is getting worse for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, open enrollment is now upon us, and 24 million Americans are now making agonizing decisions—agonizing decisions about what healthcare plans to choose, if they even choose one or are able to afford one; about how much they will be able to pay; and if they can afford healthcare at all.

I want to be very clear: This open enrollment is not like open enrollments of previous years. Never have American families faced a situation where their healthcare costs are set to double—double—in the blink of an eye, but that is the reality. If you are an average American on an ACA plan, you live with that. The average American on an ACA plan will pay 114 percent more out of pocket. Four million Americans will lose health insurance entirely. A 60-year-old couple earning \$85,000 could pay a staggering \$22,600 more a year. How the hell are they going to afford that?

Make no mistake, some States will suffer more than others. Here are the States that have seen the biggest increases in enrollment because of the tax credits: Louisiana, Tennessee, West Virginia, Mississippi; in other words, red States. The biggest beneficiaries of these enhanced premium tax credits are in red States—millions of people in both Florida and Texas. Republicans seem ready to tell their own constituents back home: Screw you. I would rather cut taxes for billionaires.

That is what is going on.

Democrats are going to keep pushing to get these tax credits extended. We have asked Republicans to vote for it three times. They have voted it down three times. We are not asking for anything radical. Lowering people's healthcare costs is the definition of "common sense" and of what Americans want all across the spectrum. We want only what a vast majority of Americans need and want. They want to see their tax credits extended. The

Senate deserves to see serious negotiations when it comes to healthcare. Republicans' outrageous delay has cost Americans already too much.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

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

REMEMBERING DICK CHENEY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this morning, Wyoming mourns the passing of Vice President Dick Cheney.

His career has few peers in American life. He was a high school football star in my hometown of Casper, WY, at Natrona County High School. He was White House Chief of Staff for President Ford. He represented Wyoming in Congress for 10 years, and he actually served as the Republican whip in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served as Secretary of Defense for our Nation and was Vice President of these great United States of America. His unflinching leadership shaped many of the biggest moments in domestic and U.S. foreign policy for decades.

Dick is going to be remembered as a towering figure who helped guide the course certainly in Wyoming, also in the United States, and, of course, around the world.

My prayers are with his wife Lynne, his daughters Liz and Mary, and with his grandchildren as they celebrate this incredible man.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. President, on a separate matter, this weekend, 42 million struggling Americans lost access to food assistance. Many are suffering. Many are sacrificing.

This weekend, 1.8 million Federal workers missed a paycheck. Their bills are mounting.

This weekend, thousands of flights across the country were delayed, and today, air travel is less safe and less dependable.

These are the latest consequences of the Schumer shutdown of our Nation's government. These are real people, they are feeling real pain, and it didn't have to be this way.

Republicans and a few reasonable Democrats have voted 13 times now to reopen the government. We voted to prevent this suffering caused by the Schumer shutdown. Senator SCHUMER and the Democrats in the Senate voted 13 times against a clean, bipartisan continuing resolution to reopen the

government. Democrats voted 13 times against paying our troops. Democrats voted 13 times against paying air traffic controllers. They voted 13 times against TSA agents and having them paid. They voted against paying the Border Patrol time and time again. They voted 13 times against funding food assistance for struggling families. They voted against funding Head Start for young children.

Today is day 35 of the Schumer shutdown. Democrats have now tied the record for the longest shutdown in American history. And for what? That is the question—for what? What have they gained? Have Democrats become more popular? No. They are the weakest they have been and at their lowest numbers in the past 20 years. Why? Because Americans are paying attention. Americans resent being used by Democrats as political pawns. They hate it.

The impact on the economy is dramatic. The Congressional Budget Office has looked into this and reports that the Schumer shutdown could cost our economy as much as \$14 billion.

Even Democrats' supporters in the unions are pleading with the Democrats to open their minds and open the government. The president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association supports a clean continuing resolution. He said it. He said this Friday. He said this—Democrats—"It is incredibly unfair to expect hard-working, patriotic American air traffic controllers and their families to bear the full burden" of this shutdown that the Democrats have caused.

The president of the Teamsters Union has repeatedly urged Democrats to reopen the government. He said just on Thursday:

Put the politics aside, get to the table, negotiate a deal, pass a clean CR right now.

That is what the American people say. That is what the polls are showing.

There is no reason to shut down the government. The government should be open, and we should be negotiating these things. The government shouldn't be shut for any of these reasons.

The head of the American Federation of Government Employees said:

Both political parties have made their point.

He went on to say:

It's time to pass a clean continuing resolution and end this shutdown today.

That is what I have been trying to do, but 13 times, the Democrats said: Nope. The government is staying shut down.

This union president went on to say:

No half measures, and no gamesmanship.

It is time for the Democrats to stop playing games.

The president of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association likewise said:

The biggest way to ensure the safety, security and reliability of our national air traffic control system is to pass a clean continuing resolution.

Democrats are going to have a chance again this morning.

Major airlines agree. United, Southwest, Delta, American—all of them support immediate passage of a clean, bipartisan continuing resolution.

American Airlines was blunt:

A prolonged shutdown will lead to more delays and cancellations—and the American people, especially during the . . . holiday season, deserve better.

I agree. The American people deserve better than what the Democrats have been doing for the last 30-some days, with the longest shutdown now in the history of the country.

These are Democrats' allies who are saying these things—supporters, contributors. They are saying enough is enough. These are the people who have supported the Democrats for decades, and the Democrats continue to ignore all of them.

Federal workers want to reopen the government. Democrats tell them: Nope. No. No. No.

We know better than you do, they say.

As a result, the pain continues. We are seeing it today all across the country.

Each day, the Democrats grow more radical, more reckless, and more extreme in what they are doing by keeping the government shut down while people are suffering, struggling, concerned about their own futures, concerned about their lives. People resent the way they are being treated by the Democrats who continue to shut down the government.

The Democrats have said it. You have heard them. Senator SCHUMER said it boldly and proudly. He said to the press—the first lines out of his mouth in an interview with Punchbowl News was "Every day gets better for us." That is CHUCK SCHUMER. "Every day gets better for us," he said. I don't know who the "us" is. It is not the people I talk to in grocery stores in Wyoming or the people I ran into on the plane flying back here. It is not those folks.

The House Democrat whip freely admitted—she said:

Of course there will be families that are going to suffer.

I guess by "suffer" she means "don't have food to feed the kids." That is what she said.

Of course there will be families that are going to suffer . . . but it is one of the few leverage times we have.

The Democrat whip in the House is saying people suffering because kids can't eat is leverage for the Democrat party. This is heartless. It is mean. That is what the Democrat party has become.

Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware told a national television audience a week ago—he said:

Frankly, this is our . . . moment of leverage.

He referred to the shutdown as an "unpleasant tool." The tool is the

shutdown itself. It is the pain, the uncertainty, the missed paychecks, the mounting bills, the grounded flights, the chaos in American lives, and they call that an unpleasant tool that they continue to use, and the American people are suffering as a result.

Knowing all of that, we had Senator RUBEN GALLEGOS of Arizona—who is, of course, testing the waters for a Presidential run; been all around the country; does not hide this from anybody—he declared proudly—he said:

I'd just go back and shut it down again.

Just think about that. This is a tool that the Democrats are using, causing pain to the American people, and one of their potential candidates for President wants to do it all again. This is just wrong.

Democrats have to be seeing the hardship. They have to be hearing the people's voices and the people in pain. But still, one of their standard bearers to lead the country says: We are going to do it again.

This is a choice by the Democrats. They call the pain the American people are suffering "leverage."

Look, enough is enough. The American people deserve better. Republicans stand ready to open the government today. We are going to have that vote. We support a clean, bipartisan continuing resolution to reopen the government, to pay our troops, to pay our Federal workers, and to restore vital services. That is what we ought to be doing, and on this, the Republicans will not budge.

The American people have suffered long enough. The Democrats have caused too much suffering. It is time for the Democrats to reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am fortunate to live in a State with some outstanding people in law enforcement. I stand behind the men and women of law enforcement, which includes, of course, our State police, our county officials, and local law enforcement as well.

Are they perfect? No, absolutely not, but neither are U.S. Senators. But I find them being held accountable under a system of government which says to the people: You have the last word.

These days, it is pretty clear that many circumstances can be proven by videotape. It is common now for legitimate law enforcement officers to wear a video camera and for the video camera product to become part of the story that ends up destroying lies and holding accountability to all law enforcement involved.

That is why what is going on in the State of Illinois now, in the city of Chicago, is so outrageous. It was several weeks ago when the President announced he was going to send in his own team for two purposes: First, he

would send in the National Guard, federalized in Illinois, as well as the National Guard from Texas, to bring order to the streets of Chicago—ridiculous, ridiculous. And that hasn't happened because the courts have said there is no justification for it.

But then he was going to also send in the Department of Homeland Security to go after immigrants. Which immigrants had he targeted, the President of the United States? He said it over and over, at every single rally: Rapists, murderers, terrorists, criminally insane—those are the ones we are going after.

So in came the ICE forces, and they have changed the circumstances of law enforcement dramatically in the Chicagoland area. The administration calls these ICE agents their "dream team"—"dream team." Well, I can tell you, their dream team is creating a nightmare. They are not seeking terrorists and rapists and murderers. They are going after people who are Hispanic. It is a "racist" policy, and I use that term advisedly. If you are Hispanic, look Hispanic; if you live in a Hispanic neighborhood; if you happen to be on the street when Hispanics are nearby, you are one of the targets of this ICE operation in Chicago.

My critics will say, "you exaggerate," of course, but I commend to them the lead article in the Chicago Tribune this morning. Let me tell you the story. It is the story of a young woman named Dayanne Figueroa.

This is Dayanne. Dayanne is an American citizen. She is the mother of a 5-year-old boy. She works in a law firm in Chicago. In October, one morning, she was headed to work. She decided to go for a coffee, to bring it to work, and then got involved in a scene which is almost impossible to believe. But it was all captured on videotape, and you can be the judge.

I commend to those who are following this presentation: Look up the lead article in the Chicago Tribune. Look at the actual videotape of what happened to this young woman, this mother of a 5-year-old boy.

As she "tried to drive through the 1600 block of West Hubbard Street on Friday, Oct. 10, an unmarked vehicle driven by Federal agents collided with" her as she "tried to speed away from a hostile crowd." "[M]ultiple videos reviewed by the Tribune show" this. That is a direct quote from the newspaper this morning.

I watched on that videotape as the ICE vehicle—the "unmarked vehicle"—crashed into her car.

The Tribune goes on to write:

Seconds after the crash, agents abruptly stopped their vehicle and exited with weapons in hand pointing at Figueroa.

And did I mention she is a United States citizen?

Agents then forcibly opened her door and pulled her out of the vehicle by her legs without identifying themselves, presenting a warrant or informing her that she was under arrest. As bystanders yelled, "You hit her!

We have it on video!" agents ignored the crowd and forced Figueroa into a red minivan and drove away.

What if this were not Dayanne Figueroa but your mother, your wife, or your daughter being manhandled by this so-called dream team of ICE agents. You would be outraged.

And I commend to you to see the video yourself. The video tells the story of what they did to this young woman.

The Department of Homeland Security later released a statement . . . that [she] was at fault, saying "she crashed into an unmarked government vehicle and violently resisted arrest, injuring two officers."

Look at the video for yourself, and you will find out those were lies. That is not the truth in any way whatsoever.

So then what happened to her, as they took her away in the red minivan? Well, unfortunately, "she was transported to multiple undisclosed locations, and repeatedly denied contact with family or legal counsel."

ICE—the dream team—is making a mockery of the Constitution when it comes to due process, and it was clear in this case.

But what stunned [Dayanne's mother] the most was that despite her daughter being a U.S. citizen, the family couldn't locate her [during this period of time.]

She said no authorities, including the Chicago police, were able to give them clarity on why her daughter was arrested.

Her mother "said her daughter is a loving mother of a 5-year-old boy and" dreams of one day working as a paralegal and has become "an aspiring lawyer."

Her record? Here is where we have to level and tell you all the facts. What about the criminal record of Dayanne Figueroa?

Her record shows nothing more than a few minor traffic violations, the Tribune found. Her family started a fundraiser to cover medical and legal expenses.

Dayanne went through kidney surgery in August of this year.

As you watch this videotape—as they drag her out of the car, kneel on her body, and hold her on the pavement—you are going to think: What in the world are they doing to her?

This situation led to a statement by the Assistant Secretary in the Department of Homeland Security, Tricia McLaughlin:

[She] alleged that Figueroa "used her vehicle to block in agents, honking her horn," and that she "struck an unmarked government vehicle" as agents were departing.

But videotapes don't lie, and, unfortunately, you can't say the same for Assistant Secretary McLaughlin.

This is an example of what is happening on the streets of Chicago. To say that you are doing this to capture rapists, murderers, terrorists, and the criminally insane is an insult to this young lady, who was simply going to work that morning when the ICE vehicle ran into her. She was arrested and detained for hours. Luckily, she was finally released with no charges filed against her.

That is what is happening in the city of Chicago in the name of making it safer. It is not making it safer. It is making a mockery of the Constitution.

I have been returning every weekend to the Chicagoland area to go to these neighborhoods where this is occurring and meet with the people who live there. They are living in mortal fear—fear that if you happen to go to the grocery store, you are going to be stopped and asked to prove that you are American. If you can't prove you are American, you can disappear—literally disappear—and be taken into the system in a place called Broadview, a nearby suburb, and detained for periods of time that no one knows in advance what they may be.

This is not a situation where the normal law enforcement in Illinois is held to standards in terms of arrest warrants and the procedure that happens in arrests. This is literally taking people off the streets, dragging them out of cars—just like this young lady—and taking them into detention, for hours at a time, with no contact or legal counsel or family or location.

This is the type of thing that is outrageous in the name of making America safer. It makes a mockery of our Constitution.

I am sorry for what happened to this young lady, but I hope her story will convince others to carefully watch what the so-called dream team is doing in the State of Illinois.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled roll-call vote occur immediately.

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 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, James E. Risch, Tim Sheehy, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, John R. Curtis, Jim Justice, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick, Todd Young, Bill Hagerty, Dan Sullivan, Marsha Blackburn, Rick Scott of Florida, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 603 Leg.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this year, 2025, marks 50 years since the end of the Vietnam war. As we reflect, as we should reflect, on this conflict's history and the impact it had on our Nation, we should pause to recognize the service and sacrifice of the brave Americans who went halfway around the world in defense of democracy and remember those who never made the trip home.

From 1955 to 1975, more than 10 million members of the U.S. Armed Forces fought to support the cause of freedom in South Vietnam. Throughout the conflict, 58,281 of those servicemembers lost their lives, more than 300,000 were wounded, and an additional 1,545 serv-

icemembers are still missing and unaccounted for.

Here in our Nation's Capital, as we know, there is a memorial dedicated to those who served in Vietnam: a wall with the name of every American soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice during their service.

I was there last week with an Honor Flight of Kansans who came to pay their respects and to remember their own service. The names of 626 Kansans are on that wall, each a son, a brother, a spouse, a friend—individuals who did not make it home.

In Kansas, many communities have set up memorials to recognize their hometown heroes and hundreds of Kansans who died serving in the Vietnam war. From the Rooks County memorial at the local courthouse in my home county to the Vietnam Wall at the Pittsburg State campus in the eastern part of our State, Kansans have made it their mission to never forget those who served.

I want to especially recognize two Kansans—Marine Corps Sgt Timmy Miller and Army PFC Charles Acheson—two young men who grew up near my hometown in Rooks County, KS, and whose names are forever etched on that wall.

At the young ages of 21 and 20, Timmy and Charles answered the call to serve and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation's freedom. Their names and every name that appears on the wall represent a life that was lost, a family that was forever changed, and a story that should never, never be forgotten.

As we now approach Veterans Day, we are reminded of our Nation's commitment to honor those who have served in the Nation's Armed Forces and make certain that their legacy is never forgotten.

In the 1970s, when I was a high school student—1972—if you graduated a year earlier than I or graduated, certainly, 2 years earlier than I did, you served in Vietnam. By the circumstance of my birthday, I did not. But what I did see was Vietnam veterans not treated with dignity and respect—the dignity and respect that they deserved—when they returned home from their service. Their service earned our Nation's lasting gratitude, and we should strive to honor our Nation's heroes and the sacrifices they made.

I, as a 16-year-old kid, made a decision, a commitment to myself, that I was going to try to compensate for the poor behavior that was extended to those who did nothing less and a lot more than just serve their country. I made a commitment that I was always going to say "thank you" and that "I respect you."

I never envisioned being a Member of Congress, and, now, as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I recognize that our responsibilities are more than to say "thank you" or "I respect you." It is to make certain that every veteran is respected

and gratitude is expressed, but, more than that, to make certain that the services that they provided for our Nation and the freedoms they fought for are recognized in what we do in keeping our promises—our promises that were made to them for their service.

I have met many Vietnam war servicemembers and veterans, and their stories remind me that service does not end when they hang up their uniform. We have an obligation to make certain that their well-being is at the forefront of our efforts and that the promises made are promises kept.

In Kansas and across the country, our Vietnam veterans are still serving—leading local businesses, volunteering at the VA and other veterans service organizations, and assisting the next generation of veterans as they transition into life after service. These veterans continue to give back to their communities and the country they served.

Again, with Veterans Day around the corner, we are also reminded of the importance of keeping those promises to our heroes, whether that means access to quality healthcare, support for mental health challenges, or recognition of the lasting damage exposure to Agent Orange has had on those who served, even after they returned home.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Vietnam Veterans of America, a veterans service organization that works to support and promote issues faced by veterans of Vietnam. Their advocacy has been critical in supporting veterans' issues and passing legislation that improves the lives of our veterans.

In 2022, Congress passed the PACT Act, legislation that was years in the making, to help improve care for our Nation's veterans who were negatively impacted by toxic exposure during their service. Since that bill became law, the Department of Veterans Affairs has completed more than 6.4 million toxic exposure health screenings, processed more than 2.7 million PACT Act-related claims, and enrolled more than 700,000 veterans in healthcare. We have made a great deal of progress, but there is still much more work to be done to care for and honor our Vietnam veterans.

I was able to learn firsthand from the Vietnam veterans that I saw at the wall last week about their service, their time in Vietnam, their time in the theater, their time at home, their return, and their opportunity now to come pay respects to those who lost their lives during their service. We were able to see firsthand the memorial built to honor them and those who served alongside them.

I have told this story before. Before the World War II Memorial was completed, I wandered up there and found the Kansas pillar and called my dad at home, a World War II veteran. I left a voicemail. I was lucky. My dad didn't pick up the phone, but I left him a voicemail in Plainville, KS, our home-

town, where I said: Dad, I am at the World War II Memorial. This memorial was built in your honor. And, Dad, I want you to know that I respect you, I thank you for your service, and, Dad, I love you.

Walking back to my office on Capitol Hill, my cell phone rang. It was my dad, who said: Gerald, you left me a voicemail, but I couldn't understand it. Would you repeat it.

I no longer can repeat it to my own father, but today I say what I said to my dad then, I say to those who served our Nation in Vietnam, who served our country in that tumultuous period of time. I say it to them: Thank you. We respect your service. And we love you.

These men are heroes. These women are heroes. And we will never forget them or their service.

To all those who served in Vietnam, we respect you. We thank you for your service. We love you, and welcome home.

RECESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled recess begin immediately.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Joshua D. Dunlap, of Maine, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

VOTE ON DUNLAP NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dunlap nomination?

Mr. PAUL. 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 604 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Boozman	Capito
Barrasso	Britt	Cassidy
Blackburn	Budd	Collins

Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Cotton	Johnson	Ricketts
Cramer	Justice	Risch
Crapo	Kennedy	Rounds
Cruz	Lankford	Schmitt
Curtis	Lee	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Marshall	Sheehy
Fischer	McConnell	Sullivan
Graham	McCormick	Thune
Grassley	Moody	Tuberville
Hagerty	Moran	Wicker
Hawley	Moreno	Young
Hoeben	Mullin	
Husted	Murkowski	

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—2

Booker

Tillis

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 actions.

The Senator from Alabama.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

VETERANS DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I would like to think that my State of Alabama is the most patriotic in the country. We stand for the flag, and we honor those who have made freedom possible. That is why it is no surprise that the first-ever Veterans Day celebration was held in Birmingham, AL, in 1947. World War II veteran Raymond Weeks organized a parade to mark National Veterans Day and continued to do so every year until his death in 1985.

It is important to remember all who were willing to sacrifice to keep our country free. That is why every year I come to the Senate floor to recognize some of Alabama's tremendous heroes. Their service did not end when their time in the military did; they have selflessly contributed to their communities long after taking off their military uniforms.

TRIBUTE TO ROY DRINKARD

Madam President, our State is home to nearly half a million veterans, including America's oldest living marine and World War II veteran, my friend Mr. Roy Drinkard of Cullman, AL.

After returning home from the war, Roy rolled up his sleeves to help recruit new businesses to Alabama as