

was not reached. Mainstream news outlets prematurely condemned his comments, but they were soon proven wrong. By issuing a dramatic threat, President Trump commenced negotiations to bring the conflict to a close on terms that put America first.

But it is important to remember that these negotiations were not conceding to Iran's unreasonable demands, including its demand to be able to secure a nuclear weapon or issue tolls to people transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Over the weekend, Iranians demonstrated that they were not serious about reopening the Strait of Hormuz or giving up their uranium enrichment program. When it became clear the Iranian regime was not serious about this, President Trump imposed a blockade of vessels carrying Iranian oil transiting the strait. This blockade is a critical negotiating tactic, showing Iran that the United States will not cave and targeting their economic lifeline.

President Trump is not abandoning diplomacy. He said diplomacy is still an option for the regime. But he is insisting on diplomacy in terms favorable to the United States and not caving against our enemies.

Our President demonstrated for all to see that the ultimate way to win over a bully is not to give in but to stand up to him.

Furthermore, let's not forget this targeted operation has been successful in mitigating the threat posed by the Iranian regime toward the United States and our allies, and the data bears that out. Since the start, more than 13,000 targets have been struck, including Iranian ballistic missile sites, drone manufacturing facilities, weapons production and storage bunkers, and surface-to-air missile facilities.

Missile attacks—it shouldn't be surprising—have fallen by 90 percent as Iran has lost many of its missile launchers. Their navy is largely decimated, with more than 155 vessels damaged or destroyed. And while we are still waiting to see the ultimate outcome of the ongoing negotiations, by these measures, Operation Epic Fury has already been a resounding success.

Iran relied on its ballistic missiles to defend against strikes on their enrichment facilities. So simply by knocking these out, we have set them further back in developing their nuclear weapons.

President Trump understands what the progressives on the left do not, which is that a nuclear Iran would impose an existential threat to the free world. He is right to stand up to this regime. Finally, we have a President who has been willing to stand up to the Iranian regime that has been at war against the West and the United States since the 1979 Iranian Revolution and which has American blood on its hands.

Rather than allow the regime to continue to funnel money to terrorist organizations around the world and hold the world hostage by halting the global

oil supply, President Trump has said: Enough is enough. America cannot surrender to the regime that chants "Death to America."

I am thankful for President Trump's resolve in standing up to this Islamic theocracy, and I would encourage his detractors to rethink their positions and do the same.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call in relation to the Shepherd nomination.

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

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent to commence the vote.

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. 672, John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

John Thune, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

Mr. DURBIN: I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and the nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 75 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Ossoff	Schatz
Murkowski	Risch	Schmitt

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

TRIBUTE TO TESS BOEHM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Tess Boehm for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming. Tess is originally from San Luis Obispo, CA. Tess attends the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service where she is pursuing a master's degree in national security and intelligence. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in

her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Tess for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO JULIANA DINARTE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Juliana Dinarte for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Juliana is a native of McLean, VA. She is currently a junior at the Madeira School in McLean. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Juliana for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO RAMSAY MYERS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ramsay Myers for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ramsay is from Casper, WY. Ramsay plans to enlist in the U.S. Air Force in the fall of 2026. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ramsay for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO SURYATEJ "SUNNY" VAKKALANKA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to "Sunny" Vakkalanka for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sunny was born in Mount Clemens, MI, but currently calls Texas home. Sunny is currently enrolled at the University of Texas at Dallas, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in

healthcare studies and a minor in political science. After graduation, Sunny plans on attending medical school. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sunny for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the revised memberships on the 12 subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations for the 119th Congress be printed in the RECORD.

The new assignments reflect Senator DEB FISCHER's selection as chair of the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch and Senator JON HUSTED's selection as a member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government; Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies; Subcommittee on Legislative Branch; and Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, all for the remainder of this Congress.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Senator Collins, as Chair of the Committee, and Senator Murray, as Vice Chair of the Committee, are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Hoeven (chair), McConnell, Collins, Moran, Hyde-Smith, Fischer, Rounds, Husted, Shaheen (ranking member), Merkley, Baldwin, Heinrich, Peters, Gillibrand, and Ossoff. (8-7)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Moran (chair), Murkowski, Collins, Graham, Capito, Kennedy, Hagerty, Britt, Fischer, Van Hollen (ranking member), Reed, Shaheen, Coons, Schatz, Merkley, Peters, and Gillibrand. (9-8)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Senators McConnell (chair), Collins, Murkowski, Graham, Moran, Hoeven, Boozman, Capito, Kennedy, Coons (ranking member), Durbin, Murray, Reed, Schatz, Baldwin, Shaheen, and Murphy. (9-8)

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Senators Kennedy (chair), McConnell, Murkowski, Graham, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Hagerty, Britt, Rounds, Murray (ranking member), Durbin, Merkley, Coons, Baldwin, Heinrich, Peters, and Ossoff. (9-8)

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Hagerty (chair), Boozman, Collins, Fischer, Husted, Reed (ranking member), Durbin, Coons, and Van Hollen. (5-4)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Senators Britt (chair), Murkowski, Capito, Kennedy, Hyde-Smith, Hagerty, Murphy (ranking member), Murray, Shaheen, Peters, and Van Hollen. (6-5)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Murkowski (chair), McConnell, Capito, Hoeven, Fischer, Rounds, Husted, Merkley (ranking member), Van Hollen, Heinrich, Baldwin, Gillibrand, and Ossoff. (7-6)

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Capito (chair), Graham, Moran, Kennedy, Hyde-Smith, Boozman, Britt, Rounds, Husted, Baldwin (ranking member), Murray, Durbin, Reed, Shaheen, Merkley, Schatz, and Murphy. (9-8)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Senators Fischer (chair), Rounds, Husted, Heinrich (ranking member), and Ossoff. (3-2)

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Boozman (chair), McConnell, Murkowski, Hoeven, Collins, Hagerty, Fischer, Rounds, Hyde-Smith, Ossoff (ranking member), Murray, Reed, Schatz, Baldwin, Heinrich, Peters, and Gillibrand. (9-8)

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Senators Graham (chair), McConnell, Boozman, Moran, Hagerty, Britt, Husted, Schatz (ranking member), Durbin, Shaheen, Coons, Merkley, and Murphy. (7-6)

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Hyde-Smith (chair), Collins, Boozman, Capito, Graham, Hoeven, Kennedy, Moran, Britt, Gillibrand (ranking member), Murray, Durbin, Reed, Coons, Schatz, Murphy, and Van Hollen. (9-8)

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KISSINGER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor John Kissinger, president and CEO of GRAEF, on his retirement. For more than 25 years, Mr. Kissinger has been a tireless advocate for his community, supporting cultural and entertainment institutions through workforce development initiatives. This tireless work has directly resulted in the construction, renovation, and revitalization of numerous well-known buildings and cultural hubs across Wisconsin.

Mr. Kissinger earned his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1979 and his master of science in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983. In 1984, he joined GRAEF as a structural engineer in the firm's Milwaukee office. Since joining GRAEF, he steadily advanced within in the company, serving in roles including vice president, regional manager, and chief operating officer. In January 2012, he was named president and CEO.

Among his notable projects at GRAEF, Mr. Kissinger served as the