

and it has earned recognition from the Kansas Press Association for its work.

With the merging of the Plainville Times with the Stockton Sentinel—Stockton, incidentally, being our cross-county rival—the unified paper will continue to cover Plainville and Rooks County. That is the good news.

I want to congratulate the owners of the Stockton Sentinel, Bart Hamilton and Susan Hamilton Schneider. I am grateful for their investment in local journalism and their support for Stockton, for Plainville, for Palco, for Damar and Zurich, for Codell—for the communities that make up our small county.

I look forward to staying informed on local news. I receive the Plainville Times every week. When I get home, it is in the stack of newspapers that I have yet to read. It is the very first one. My wife would say my first comment is: Oh, the Plainville Times is here.

I look forward every week to seeing what is going on in my hometown, and I appreciate the publication that has provided me and so many others with that information. The Plainville Times and now the Stockton Sentinel Times will be important to every resident who lives in the area.

I again thank those who made this newspaper what it is, and I congratulate and wish the best for those who will make what this newspaper will become.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON SIMMONS NOMINATION

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, 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.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Ex.]

#### YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	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	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

#### NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Cantwell	Gallego
Baldwin	Coons	Gillibrand
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Heinrich
Blunt Rochester	Durbin	Hickenlooper
Booker	Fetterman	Hirono

Kaine	Ossoff	Slotkin
Kelly	Padilla	Smith
Kim	Peters	Van Hollen
King	Reed	Warner
Klobuchar	Rosen	Warnock
Luján	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schatz	Welch
Merkley	Schiff	Whitehouse
Murphy	Schumer	Wyden
Murray	Shaheen	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). 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.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### FERNANDO MENDOZA

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, as we begin the new year, there are a lot of things that Members of Congress and the American people are paying attention to. But something really extraordinary is going on in my home State of Indiana. It is not just Hoosiers who are paying attention; the whole country is following Indiana football.

I am the first in my family to go to college, and it was a no-brainer for me to attend Indiana University in Bloomington.

Everyone knows that IU is a basketball school. IU basketball won five national championships. We had the legendary 1976 undefeated team in the NCAA—the only undefeated team in college basketball history.

When I got to college in the 1990s, one of the reasons I attended IU was to watch Bobby Knight-coached basketball games. We had great players over the years: Isaiah Thomas, Damon Bailey, Steve Alford, and so many others who played on the floor at Assembly Hall and made Indiana very proud. Assembly Hall is the mecca of college basketball. Again, it is one of the reasons that I wanted to go to college there in the first place. When I go back to IU and attend basketball games, I still get choked up in the pregame show at Assembly Hall each and every time.

But IU was never known as a football school. Sure, we had some great talent over the years—Antwaan Randle El was the star player when I attended IU—but IU football always had a lot more downs than it had ups. In fact, when I was a student at Indiana University, the football program was so bad that they gave free season tickets to all of the students who lived in the dorms, and at every game, the stadium

was hardly ever even half full except for those occasions when the Ohio State Buckeyes came over the State line to play in Bloomington.

As IU fans, we were trained to never get our hopes up about Indiana football, but now, my, how the tides have turned. Now, the entire country is watching one of the greatest turnarounds in sports history. From being college football's alltime leader in losses to now having an undefeated season, wherein we won the Rose Bowl, the Big Ten Championship, and had a Heisman Trophy winner, IU football has captured the country's attention. In fact, the great Dick Vitale said, "Hoosier football is the greatest turnaround" that he has ever seen.

When IU President Pam Whitten and athletic director Scott Dolson brought on coach Curt Cignetti, IU's football program turned around overnight. And when my wife and I attended the IU game earlier this season against Wisconsin, the stadium was absolutely packed—a real change from what past games used to look like. Coach Cignetti has brought great pride to the State of Indiana.

I want to highlight the incredible young man who has led IU's team to glory this season, the great Fernando Mendoza.

Just 3 weeks ago, Fernando became the first Heisman Trophy winner in Indiana University's history. When I was in college, I have got to tell you that it would have been impossible to imagine having had a Heisman Trophy winner at Indiana University. What makes this man truly exceptional is not simply his award-winning career on the field. What makes Fernando so incredible is that he represents the very best of what we hope to see in our Nation's young people—a combination of excellence, character, faith, and service to others.

In fact, a few days ago, Fernando led the Hoosiers to an incredible 38-to-3 victory over Alabama in the Rose Bowl, winning the first ever Rose Bowl in IU's history and the first win in the modern playoff era for the Indiana Hoosiers.

Right after the game, Fernando was asked about the big win. And do you know what he said? Before saying anything else, he said:

My team and I want to give all the glory to God.

In all of his interviews, Fernando always makes sure to thank God first. That is a man who has his priorities straight. That is a man who is proud to live out his faith, who honors God in everything that he does.

But there is more.

With Fernando Mendoza, there is really no "I" in "team." When he received his Heisman trophy, Fernando made it clear that it wasn't his trophy alone. Instead he said that it was "our trophy." That is why he has made the gracious decision to keep the Heisman Trophy in Bloomington, IN. It is because the Trophy belongs to the university and to the fans, he said.

I am incredibly proud of that decision, and I want to thank Fernando Mendoza for making that decision. I can't wait to go to Bloomington to see it.

In his Heisman Trophy speech, Fernando mentioned how his family has always stood by his side throughout his career and that they have never stopped believing in him. Fernando particularly thanked his mother Elsa.

He said:

This is your trophy as much as it is mine.

Elsa suffers from multiple sclerosis, a tough and often painful disease. In honor of his mother, Fernando has raised over \$100,000 to fight MS. What an incredible act of kindness, and what a special way to honor his mother.

In that Heisman Trophy acceptance speech, after thanking his teammates, his family, and Coach Cignetti, Fernando addressed the young people who might be tuning in.

He said:

I want every kid out there who feels overlooked and underestimated to know I was you. I was that kid too. I was in your shoes. The truth is, you don't need the most stars, hype, or rankings. You just need discipline, heart, and people who believe in you, and you need to believe in your own abilities.

Our young people need role models today more than ever, and they need role models like Fernando Mendoza. He shows them that faith matters, that family comes first, and that hard work pays off. He is proof that you can be a champion on the field and still be humble, that you can be competitive and still put God first, that success means nothing if you are not using it to help others. Fernando Mendoza is the kind of young man that I want my three daughters to look up to and other kids of their generation to look up to too. Indiana is lucky to have him. We are proud to have him, and America is better because of him.

I don't know how this story ends at the semifinal game in Atlanta on Friday that I am looking forward to attending and at the championship game in Miami the following week. I can't wait to cheer on the Hoosiers. I don't know how this great story ends. The Hoosiers have a possibility to be the first team ever to win 16 games and go undefeated, but I can't tell you how much pride the great State of Indiana has in this football team wearing the "Indiana" on their uniform. They represent us so well. The Hoosier State is proud, and I wanted to take a moment to come to the floor and just simply say, "Go Hoosiers."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Well played, Senator. Congratulations.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sara Bailey, of

Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

#### NOMINATION OF SARA BAILEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Sara Bailey, nominated to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Ms. Bailey, like so many of President Trump's nominees, was chosen for her loyalty and MAGA bona fides, rather than any policy expertise or leadership experience. Ms. Bailey has spent years fanning flames of division and hatred in this country, attacking immigrants, Members of Congress, and praising dictators who indiscriminately strip the rights of their citizens.

America is experiencing a drug crisis. Illegal narcotics trafficked from other countries and the abuse of prescription opioids have taken the lives of too many people. This great challenge demands an experienced, accomplished leader to serve as drug czar. Past nominees have been law enforcement professionals who have taken down drug smuggling rings, State public health experts, or physicians with a deep understanding of addiction. Ms. Bailey lacks any serious qualifications for this role. She is not a physician or addiction specialist. She has never been a prosecutor or law enforcement official.

To prove her MAGA loyalty to President Trump, she endorsed the President's irresponsible and deadly plans to cut funding to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program, which is on the frontlines of keeping illegal drugs off our streets and out of our country. If she were an expert on addiction, Ms. Bailey would know that kneecapping the Federal Agencies that provide substance abuse and mental health services would have deadly consequences.

With his recent pardon of high-profile drug kingpin and former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and his nomination of Ms. Bailey, President Trump has proven once again that he prioritizes loyalty and political favors ahead of the safety and well-being of the American people.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose her nomination.

#### VOTE ON BAILEY NOMINATION

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, 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.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Budd	Cotton
Barrasso	Capito	Cramer
Blackburn	Cassidy	Crapo
Boozman	Collins	Cruz
Britt	Cornyn	Curtis

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

#### NAYS—48

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). 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 Senator from North Carolina.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, we all know that today is the anniversary of what actually I consider to be one of the worst days in my 11 years in the U.S. Senate. I think it will probably be that through my final year. And I think there are going to be some speeches later on today that may talk on the subject.

I came here mainly to thank the parliamentary staff, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Capitol Police officers who got us all into a safe environment within literally minutes of the Capitol being breached and our safety being threatened here. I am going to come back to that a little bit later.

But I think it is important for anybody who speaks this afternoon to not just talk about the moments of January 6, but let's at least talk about the months leading up to January 6. Let's talk about the "defund the police" effort that was building steam for a couple of years before January 6, 2021. Let's talk about the images on TV when Kenosha—a building was burning. I think it was about August timeframe when the riots were happening. I think it was Kenosha. A building is burning, and I think it was CNN that said: Mostly peaceful protest in Kenosha—but there is a building burning in the background; people have been hospitalized, right?

Let's talk about ActBlue, which is the Democrats' equivalent—we have a fundraising engine too. I am not saying they have something we don't. But they actually allowed Black Lives Matter, in the years leading up to January 6, to raise money on their website for the 13.12-mile race because 1-3-1-2 translates into A-C-A-B, which translates into "all cops are bastards," a