

from my home is this place called McDonald's.

Now, I have a guy who has driven me since I was a mayor. He was on my protective detail. He was a detective in the Newark Police Department. His name is Kevin Batts. From 2006 until now, he has been driving me around. And we have such a great friendship. We know each other so well that when I jump in the back of the car, I am often doing work, pounding away on texts, on the phone, so we don't even have to talk. He has learned to read my mind. Telepathic powers have emerged between us.

So as we are driving past that McDonald's, he looks in the rearview mirror and immediately turns into the drive-through. He looked at me and read my mind. Maybe he didn't read my mind; he just saw weakness in my soul. I needed to have some McDonald's french fries.

Now, at this point in my life when this story takes place, I was not a plant-based man. I did not know that McDonald's to this day—this is not libelous—they soak their french fries in some kind of beef product. I don't know what it is. But still I love McDonald's french fries. I get two large french fries.

Now we are driving out of the drive-through, and I see a guy in a trash can rooting around, and I don't say a word. Kevin knows me. I look in the rearview mirror, our eyes meet, and he immediately stops the car. I roll down the window. He knows that I am going to want to try to see what is going on here three blocks from my home. I am trying to live my values.

I say, "Hey man, you all right?" and he sort of waves me off. But, immediately, I realized my tone wasn't right. This is a man with equal dignity, God's creation made in God's image, and I said—my words weren't respectful enough.

So I lowered my tone, and I said: Excuse me, sir. I am sorry to bother you, but do you need anything?

He turns around and looks at me, and he goes: I am hungry.

Now, I have talked to a lot of you. A lot of different faiths. We have a lot of different faiths for Senators here. It is more diverse than it has ever been. But in my faith, I think Jesus said something like, if you have two McDonald's french fries and your neighbor has no McDonald's french fries—I think it was the sermon on the Mount. Yes. The Parliamentarian can fact-check that. I think that is what the Bible said. But if I have two McDonald's french fries and my neighbor has none, I think Jesus said: Give one of your McDonald's french fries.

So I reach into my bag, and I hand the man one of my treasures. I mean, before that, I was holding them like that movie, "The Lord of the Rings." My precious. My precious. But now I go into my bag, and I hand him one of my fries. He takes the fries. He seems happy. I feel satisfied that I showed up

in that moment. And he looks at me, grateful, steps away from the car, and then steps back to the car, and he goes: Excuse me. One more thing. Do you have any socks?

Now, all of us who have done any voluntary work in homeless shelters or worked with folks who are experiencing homelessness, you know if he is asking, there must be an urgent need for him. So I felt bad. I sort of vainly looked in my car left and right. I don't carry extra socks in my car.

I said: No, sir. I am sorry, I don't have socks.

He shook his head and stepped back and raised the fries to me like saying: Cheers. Thanks for the fries.

I whipped my head around, looked in the rearview mirror, giving him all the telepathy I could. I need to get home. I need to turn on the British baking show—I should say the American baking show, American baking shows. And there is nothing worse than cold McDonald's french fries. But Kevin doesn't move the car. I stare harder—more telepathy. Move the car. He doesn't move the car.

Suddenly, what he does is he puts the car in park, and he reaches between the steering wheel and his legs, kicks off his shoes, and takes off the socks he is wearing. He folds them as neat as he can and offers them up to the man, who then takes the socks like he just received a bar of gold and steps away from the car and says: Thank you.

I am a U.S. Senator, and I talk about kindness all the time, but in that moment, I failed to use my moral imagination to see how I could show up. I am three blocks from my house. I have socks in my drawer. Some of them, I don't even wear anymore. But I didn't think about taking off my socks.

Pages, you all are special. I tell you, I really have come to have a lot of affection for you. I am going to miss you. This place is going to miss you. I hope if I see you out and about, you don't pretend like you don't know me and I can tell you what an honor it was that we served together in the U.S. Senate.

I think I speak for 99 other people in telling you how grateful we are.

If there is one request I have, it is to just remind you that our Founders knew about this country, that we needed improvement. They wanted this in every generation of us to make this a more perfect Union. If I could prescribe one great need our country has, it is you. This country needs your heart and your spirit; it needs your brilliance and ideas; it needs your grit and hard work; but most of all, it needs you to be kind. Those seeds are in you. I see it.

I hope that as you go out into the world and encounter challenges and stresses, that you can always show up with your heart and your kindness and your love. And that perhaps you remember better than I do that sometimes in life, you got to take off your socks.

RECESS UNTIL 8:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provision of S. Res. 585, the Senate stands in recess until 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 16, and does so as a further mark of respect to the late Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a former Senator from the State of Colorado.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:59 p.m., recessed until Friday, January 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRIAN W. GIBSON

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. B. MARK PYE

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. CALVERT L. WORTH, JR.  
LT. GEN. ROBERT C. FULFORD  
LT. GEN. JAMES H. ADAMS III  
LT. GEN. MELVIN G. CARTER  
LT. GEN. ANDREW M. NIEBEL  
LT. GEN. BENJAMIN T. WATSON  
LT. GEN. JOSEPH A. MATOS III

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DEREK L. ADAMS  
BRIG. GEN. JAIME A. AREIZAGA  
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW M. BACON  
BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN P. BEDDALL  
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW P. BELLPUSS  
BRIG. GEN. LAVETTA L. BENNETT  
BRIG. GEN. LELAND D. BLANCHARD II  
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY M. BROWER  
BRIG. GEN. MARLENA A. DECELLE  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL D. EVANS  
BRIG. GEN. TOD M. PENNER  
BRIG. GEN. SEAN M. FLYNN  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL M. GREER  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES B. HAYNIE  
BRIG. GEN. MURRAY E. HOLT II  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. IZZO  
BRIG. GEN. DAVID L. KAUFFMAN  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. LIESMANN  
BRIG. GEN. JUSTIN L. MANN  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM F. MCCLINTOCK  
BRIG. GEN. CRISTINA MOORE  
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES W. MORRISON  
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT J. PAYNE  
BRIG. GEN. TRACEY L. POIRIER  
BRIG. GEN. ERIC J. RILEY  
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. SAMULSKI  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. SCATES  
BRIG. GEN. JEFFERY M. SMITH  
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW J. STRUB  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM E. TEMPLE V  
BRIG. GEN. KENDRICK D. TRAYLOR  
BRIG. GEN. TANYA R. TROUT  
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL R. WATERS  
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN F. WERTZLER  
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW S. WOODRUFF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DIANE L. DUNN

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE

INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MARCUS B. ANNIBALE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. RICHARD E. SEIF, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be major*

MARCUS W. C. MACNEALY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

JOSEPH D. FRJELICH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

SCOTT D. GALE  
ALLIE M. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

ANDREW J. WITHINGTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

CASEY C. GOWER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be colonel*

CLYDE B. GORE, JR.  
MATTHEW B. MCDONALD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be major*

EMILY E. BOBENRIETH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

*To be major*

KIERA K. ZIMMERMAN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be commander*

JOHN B. NEWMAN

*To be lieutenant commander*

NATASHA RAI MORRIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant commander*

IAN W. MCMENAMIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531 AND 8132:

*To be lieutenant commander*

LAWRENCE E. BURKART  
BRENDON W. KIELY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant commander*

ALI A.W. ABDUL WAHID  
GARY L. ARENDS, JR.  
LUIS ARRAZOLA  
ANDREW J. BERSON  
ORLANDO CONTY  
LEE A. DUDLEY  
SHAIMAA M. EL SHAARAWY  
MADELINE R. ELLIS  
JEFFREY M. ERFE  
DERRICK G. HICKEY  
DAVID M. KRUSE  
ALI K. OZCAN  
SEETHALAKSHMI RAMANATHAN  
KIMBERLY J. SALENE  
IMANI N. WILLIAMS-VAUGHN