

focuses on weapons of the future and not legacy weapons of the past that are revered by the defense-industrial complex but are not effective on the battlefield. And, fourth, we have to come to a reckoning that, whether it comes to national defense or even domestic programs, they don't pay for themselves, and we have got to step up and accept that responsibility. For far too long, we have been ignoring it.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Arthur Roberts Jones, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

NOMINATION OF ARTHUR ROBERTS JONES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Arthur Roberts Jones to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Mr. Jones' association with a far-right organization and refusal to disavow that organization's extreme views on firearm safety are disqualifying.

Mr. Jones joined Gun Owners of America in 2025. This group has criticized the National Rifle Association for being too moderate, called for ATF to be abolished, and argued that all gun safety laws are unconstitutional.

I gave Mr. Jones the opportunity to explain his choice to join this group. In response, he disputed that Gun Owners of America has radical views on firearms and stonewalled on the question of whether he believes the Second Amendment renders all gun safety laws unconstitutional.

His refusal to admit that the Supreme Court has, in fact, upheld various regulations on firearms under the Second Amendment is unacceptable for someone who seeks a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench.

I cannot support his nomination.

VOTE ON JONES NOMINATION

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 193 Ex.]

YEAS—46

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—9

Britt	Lee	Murray
Fetterman	McConnell	Risch
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). 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 majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding rule XXII, to move to proceed to legislative session.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 779.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey T. Kuntz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 779, Jeffrey T. Kuntz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Ashley Moody, James Lankford, Todd Young, Ted Budd, Pete Ricketts, Jon Husted, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, James C. Justice, Eric Schmitt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTAS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Artas, SD. The town of Artas celebrated its quasiquicentennial July 11, 2026. Artas hosted quasiquicentennial events, including live music, reunions, and much more.

Artas is located in Campbell County, situated along South Dakota's northern border and among the vast rolling prairies and open farmland. This community began when the Soo Line Railroad expanded into northern South Dakota. Artas became a central, rural town for surrounding farms, fostering a spirit of hard work, strength, and resilience. Though small in size, Artas reflects the enduring spirit of rural South Dakota, where neighbors know each other and a strong sense of community thrives. Since its beginning 125 years ago, the community of Artas continues to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to the citizens of Artas on their town's quasiquicentennial and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLLOCK, SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Pollock, SD. The town of Pollock will be celebrating its quasiquicentennial July 17–19, 2026. Pollock will host quasiquicentennial events, including live music, fishing tournaments, parades, class reunions, and much more.

Pollock is located in Campbell County, situated along the shores of Lake Oahe in north-central South Dakota. Like many communities in the area, Pollock originated from the Soo Line Railroad's southern extension and drew in farmers, ranchers, and settlers who were eager to build a life in the northern plains.

Pollock's early residents embodied perseverance and resilience by relocating the town to higher ground when the construction of the Oahe Dam threatened to flood the original town site in the 1950s. Pollock is a close-knit community known for its deep agricultural roots and strong ties to the land and the river. Since its founding 125 years ago, Pollock continues to embody the South Dakota values and traditions that make communities thrive.

I offer my congratulations to the citizens of Pollock on their town's quasiquicentennial and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 185, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 780, John George Edward Marck, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 186, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 780, John George Edward Marck, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 187, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 777, Michael J. Hendershot, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 188, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 777, Michael J. Hendershot, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 189, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 778, Arthur Roberts Jones, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 190, motion to proceed to Cal-

endar No. 432, S.J. Res. 196, A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Reimagining and Improving Student Education-Federal Student Loan Program Final Regulations". Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 191, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 776, Matthew A. Schwartz, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 192, motion to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 185, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, due to unforeseen circumstances on Wednesday, June 24, I was unable to be present for the following rollcall vote No. 185. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall vote 185—Cloture motion John George Edward Marck to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas: Nay.

Due to unforeseen circumstances on Wednesday, June 24, I was unable to be present for the following rollcall vote No. 186. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall vote 186—Confirmation John George Edward Marck to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas: Nay.

Due to unforeseen circumstances on Wednesday, June 24, I was unable to be present for the following rollcall vote No. 187. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall vote 187—Cloture motion Michael J. Hendershot to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio: Nay.

Due to unforeseen circumstances on Wednesday, June 24, I was unable to be present for the following rollcall vote No. 188. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall vote 188—Confirmation Michael J. Hendershot to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio: Nay.

Due to unforeseen circumstances on Wednesday, June 24, I was unable to be present for the following rollcall vote No. 189. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. Rollcall vote 189—Cloture motion Arthur Robert Jones to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas: Nay.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, this July, we celebrated the 250th year of

the great American experiment. Yet 239 years ago this September, a similarly important moment in our Republic's history took place. Eleven years after our Nation's founding, 55 men met in Philadelphia to revise America's first governing charter. Recognizing that the Articles of Confederation were too deeply flawed to guarantee effective government and safeguard our homeland, the Convention crafted a new Constitution to guide our great Republic forward. Like the mortal men who shaped it, the Constitution made compromises that modern people may be critical of, but none should deny the revolutionary impact this great document has had in transforming the United States into the bastion of liberty we are blessed to live in today, spreading democratic ideals across the world, and making our country the envy of the free world.

As the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, I am happy to recognize Constitution Week this year, which runs from September 17 to 23. This celebration highlights the importance of the beating heart of our great Republic, which continues to guide our Nation forward today. May God bless the American people, and may God bless the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CORNER MARKET & GREENHOUSE

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Corner Market & Greenhouse of Fayette County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1994 by Paul and Linda Manske, Corner Market & Greenhouse was established to provide families in Oelwein with a community-focused store to meet every gardening need. Carrying seasonal flowers, plants, and decor, Paul and Linda aspire to bring life to every Iowan's backyard.

The Manske family relocated to Oelwein in 1989 when Paul's job transferred him there. The family began the venture by waking up early in the morning and selling goods at farmers' markets. After countless early mornings bringing their products to people across the State, the Manske family decided to open their own storefront, drawing people to them. The family grew the business from a modest farm stand into the beloved local institution it is today.

For over 32 years, Paul and Linda have shown up, demonstrating the entrepreneurial drive rooted in Iowa values. Corner Market & Greenhouse is one of Paul and Linda's greatest passions, prompting the family to joke, it