

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.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffrey T. Kuntz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and the nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 196 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

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	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—3

Gallego	McConnell	McCormick
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WEINBERG

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize an exceptional public servant and Michigander who is sitting right next to me here. His name is David Weinberg.

For nearly 18 years, David has served on my team, guiding our office through major challenges and always delivering results for the people in Michigan as well as all across our country.

David's Michigan roots run deep. His great-great-grandparents Max and Jenny Fisher left Eastern Europe in the 1890s and sought an opportunity in the United States of America. They eventually settled in Kalamazoo, where Max's work as a peddler went on to become a three-generation family business of buying scrap metal and fabricating steel. They also founded their synagogue in Kalamazoo, which remains there today.

David's grandfather Martin Kalb first came to Michigan after enlisting in the Army, which stationed him at Fort Custer. He took an additional intensive language training program at the University of Michigan before deploying to Europe during World War II, where he served as an interpreter and a military police officer.

Martin's education started a long line of Wolverines in David's family. His grandmother Marcia was the first in her family to go to college, graduating with a degree in political science. David's parents Neal and Susan, who are up in the Galleries here today, met at the University of Michigan in 1970. And just 35 years later, David graduated with a political science degree as well.

Before becoming one of the longest serving members of my team, David got his start on Capitol Hill by working for two titans in Michigan's congressional delegation. David interned for venerable Congressman John Dingell and then served as a law clerk for Senator Carl Levin in his role as chairman of the powerful Subcommittee on Investigations.

In the 18 years that David has worked for me, I have been able to watch him grow from a recent law school graduate and junior campaign staffer to one of the longest serving staff directors in the U.S. Senate. Over the years, David has helped shape some of the most consequential policies that I have been privileged to work on as a legislative assistant and as a legislative director in both my House and Senate offices and, most recently, as staff director of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

During my tenure in the House, David helped create—and later expand—the State Small Business Credit Initiative which helped small businesses grow and create jobs.

He worked hand in hand with Senator Debbie Stabenow's team and across the aisle to deliver \$170 million to support the city of Flint during its water crisis.

(Mr. ARMSTRONG assumed the Chair.)

On the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, David has led an incredible team, supporting my work to make government more efficient and effective for the American people. With his help, I have been able to enact bipartisan bills into law that save taxpayer dollars, streamline Federal contracting, track and improve Federal Agency performance, modernize Federal cloud computing, and dozens more.

He and I share a mindset that Congress can't just focus on the problems right in front of us; that we also have to look ahead, look ahead to the challenges that we will be facing in the future.

David helped me steer the Cyber Incident Reporting for the Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022 across the finish line, passing what the Washington Post called "the most significant cyber legislation in history." Once this rule is finalized, it will help keep our critical infrastructure safe from dangerous cyber attacks and ransomware attacks.

He has also helped me look ahead and prepare for emerging threats by working to pass bipartisan legislation that strengthens the cyber security for State and local governments, secures our Federal supply chains, and improves our disaster preparedness, gives us the tools to defend against drone threats, and protects Americans' most sensitive genetic data.

He has also been instrumental in helping author cutting-edge legislation to prepare our Nation for emerging technologies. In 2017, he played a critical role in my efforts to craft bipartisan legislation—along with Senator THUNE—to help guide the safe deployment of self-driving cars.

Through that process, David and I both became equally steeped in artificial intelligence policy. And since then, he has helped me enact several bills to help drive the responsible adoption and use of AI by the Federal Government.

David also understands the vital role that congressional oversight plays in making our government accountable to the public. He played a vital role in bringing together our Republican partners for major investigations led by my committee, including the January 6 Capitol attack and the assassination attempt on President Donald Trump.

David has a keen—keen—understanding of exactly what it takes to be successful and be successful in moving bills or accomplish a goal in Congress. If there is a path of something getting in the way of being done, David will find it. Over the years, he has built incredibly strong relationships with fellow staffers on both sides of the aisle, which is how this place has to work. I watched him deftly handle markups on some of the most complicated legislation that this body considers.

Helping to keep both Democratic and Republican Senators together is absolutely important to advance critical bipartisan bills. He knows when a deal can be made to compromise on legislation without ever sacrificing core principles that drive my work on behalf of the people of Michigan. He is able to see around corners, identifying potential roadblocks and determining how to break through them in order to get things done.

David's ability to distill complex information to get to the heart of an issue and to find the right path forward have made him one of my most trusted

advisers over these many years. I could speak at length about David's work ethic and the many ways in which he has helped me serve the people of Michigan.

But I have also been proud to witness some of the key moments of his life outside of work, including his marriage to Meghan, and the joy with which he has thrown himself into being a dad to his two sons Jay and Elliott.

In fact, David just recently celebrated perhaps one of his most important and impressive accomplishments: He is now a championship winning Little League coach.

And after seeing David in action over the years, I can't help but think there is a lot of overlap—a lot of overlap—in the skills it takes to be an effective U.S. Senator and managing a dozen sixth and seventh graders.

I have been proud to see everything that David has accomplished over these past 8 years, and I cannot wait to see all that he will accomplish in his next role.

David, Colleen and I are so grateful for all of your hard work and leadership over the years. We wish you all the best of luck as you head into your next chapter of your career, but you will always—always—be part of Team Peters.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY T. KUNTZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jeffrey T. Kuntz to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

While Judge Kuntz was under consideration to fill a judicial vacancy, he was also presiding over *Alexander v. Trump*, in which he authored the majority opinion upholding a lower court's ruling that Trump's defamation lawsuit against the Pulitzer Prize Board could continue.

Judge Kuntz declined to directly answer my question about whether he made the defendants in *Alexander* aware, while the case was pending, that he was being considered by the plaintiff for a lifetime appointment to the bench.

Instead, Judge Kuntz argued that he was not under consideration for this nomination, claiming that he did not interview with the White House until 2 weeks after the case had been decided.

A closer look at the timeline suggests a different story. Judge Kuntz first discussed a possible judicial nomination with Senator SCOTT's office in November 2024, 2 months before he was assigned to this case.

Judge Kuntz issued the majority opinion in *Alexander* on February 12, 2025, ruling in favor of President Trump. Eight days later, he was contacted by the White House regarding a potential nomination.

In fact, Judge Kuntz discussed this case when he interviewed with the White House on February 28, just about 2 weeks after he issued his opinion.

It's hard to believe that it is simply a coincidence that just 8 days after Judge Kuntz issued a ruling favorable

to President Trump, he was contacted by the White House about a nomination and interviewed about it shortly thereafter.

Yet again, we have another nominee who has been rewarded for his loyalty to the President with a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench. I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination.

RECESS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:06 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BANKS).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON KUNTZ NOMINATION

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

Mr. HEINRICH. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Mc Cormick).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—3

Gallego

McConnell

McCormick

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.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Kansas.

SANCTIONING RUSSIA ACT OF 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, sadness entered the Senate over the weekend, and as we reflect upon the life of our colleague, our friend, our fellow citizen, our patriot toward the United States of America—and a friend, really, of the world—Senator Lindsey Graham, we honor his commitment to promoting liberty and fighting tyranny throughout the world.

Yesterday, I joined a bipartisan group of Senators by reintroducing legislation that he championed—the Sanctioning Russia Act. This legislation would meaningfully alter the course of Russia's unjust war in Ukraine, and it serves as a fitting tribute to the cause Senator Graham championed throughout his life and service in the U.S. Senate.

Last month, leaders of the G7 countries issued a joint statement declaring their “unwavering support for Ukraine in defending its freedom, sovereignty, and [its] territorial integrity.” This was a welcomed statement from the world's major industrialized democracies as Ukraine endures withering attacks from Russia, coupled with the renewed commitment to both Ukraine and article 5 at this month's NATO Summit.

These words, backed by President Trump, come at a pivotal moment in Ukraine's defense against Russia. While Ukrainian forces are making headlines—taking the battle to Russian territory, attacking Russian energy and defense infrastructure at increased rates, and placing Russian-held Crimea under pressure—the situation in the Donbas remains precarious.

The ingenuity and courage of the Ukrainian forces have reduced Russian progress to incremental gains and in some places have achieved reverses, but they still suffer a manpower shortage and, most alarmingly, lack critical air defense interceptors.

The G7 members agreed to “increase the delivery of air defence capacities, additional systems and interceptors, and long-range capabilities.” In recognizing the capabilities of Ukraine's defense industrial base, the statement says the countries are “ready to consider extending to Ukraine the benefit of licenses to allow for an increase in [Ukrainian production of its military equipment].”

Words, however, must be backed by action, and the United States and our allies must act quickly. For more than a year, I have advocated for Ukraine to