would have improved the ability of the Department of Energy to test AI systems for national security issues.

Senators HICKENLOOPER and CAPITO'S VET Artificial Intelligence Act would have established standards so that third-party auditors could test AI systems for safety and security—the very thing that the Anthropic CEO just called out over the weekend.

So at a time when we still had a window to get ahead of these dangers, the Federal Government and the people here were denying this opportunity, particularly my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. If we had passed these bills, we would have been more ahead of the game than we are today. Instead, we have lost 3 years.

The technology keeps advancing. The risks keep growing. And now the very dangers we have warned about—autonomous cyber attacks and biological weapons—are no longer theoretical.

It is time that we act and act aggressively. We must keep in mind that these AI models consistently lag about only 7 months, and the most powerful open models continue to come from China. So it is time for my colleagues to come together to act.

We know that these threats are real—cyber security, misinformation—building on these AI agents that could be used in military applications. We need our colleagues to say ''Stop saying the industry can do what it wants'' and put together the infrastructure at the Federal level that not only has strong Federal standards but also has independent testing and real safeguards for the American people.

Now is the time to act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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 bill 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. 902, Matthew R. Byrne, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, Rick Scott of Florida, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Chuck Grassley, Ashley B. Moody, Jim Banks, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds.

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 Matthew R. Byrne, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall vote No. 232 Ex.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—7

Coons	Murkowski	Tillis
Cramer	Risch	
Marshall	Schmitt	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 46. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew R. Byrne, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 5389

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will vote on a crypto bill that poses massive risks to our families, to our national security, and to our economy. And if that is not bad enough, while Americans across this country suffer from an affordability crisis, this bill will turbocharge President Donald Trump's ability to rake in billions and billions of dollars from crypto.

Late last night, we got the details of President Trump and the Republicans' final offer on ethics on this bill, and it reads exactly like what you would expect the most corrupt President in our history to bless: a weak fig leaf that will do nothing to stop him from making his next $1.4 billion in crypto profits.

First, it makes sure that the law could never be enforced against Donald Trump because it gives his political appointees the power to turn off enforcement of all of these ethics provisions.

Second, it contains major loopholes designed to allow President Trump to keep earning billions of dollars from his crypto business, including World Liberty Financial and his new bank. Yeah, you heard that right.

On August 14, World Liberty Trust Company received preliminary approval for a Federal banking charter. Donald Trump and his family own 38.25 percent of the bank. An investment fund backed by the UAE's National Security Advisor and brother of the UAE's President reportedly owns 49 percent of the bank. The bank charter was conditionally granted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, a Federal banking Agency controlled by—wait for it—Donald Trump.

Donald Trump is now the first President in American history to own and oversee his very own bank. It may be the most brazen act of self-dealing that our financial system has ever seen. The bank can serve as the financial hub of the President's web of corruption. With a bank charter, World Liberty will be able to operate nationwide, offer families and businesses financial products and services, and enjoy the credibility that comes with having the Federal Government's stamp of approval.

The bank's primary product is the USD1 stablecoin, which is currently issued by a third party bank partner under a licensing agreement with World Liberty. The stablecoin arrangement earned President Trump $200 million last year. You know, that is a big chunk of the $1.4 billion that he earned from his various crypto ventures just in 2025 alone.

USD1 is already the fifth largest stablecoin in the entire world, and now, with the Federal banking charter, World Liberty can issue the stablecoin directly without a separately regulated bank partner. The charter could supercharge the growth of USD1, increase its interconnectedness with the U.S. financial system, and, as a result, drive even greater profits for President Trump and his family.

Donald Trump's bank is a new vehicle for billionaires, corporations, and foreign countries to bribe him. These entities could cut Trump into everyday transactions and business deals by making payments using USD1 instead of, you know, traditional checks or debit cards or wire transfers. Trump could charge transaction fees, similar to Visa and MasterCard, and generate interest on the cash deposited with World Liberty in exchange for the USD1 stablecoin, similar to the business model of a traditional bank.

Look, this is not hypothetical. We already saw this play out last year in a trial run before World Liberty actually got its bank charter. MGX, which is a UAE state-owned investment fund, made a $2 billion investment in the crypto exchange Binance. Instead of using fiat currency—ordinary money like the U.S. dollar—to purchase stock in Binance, MGX paid Binance using USD1, cutting Trump in on the deal.

Coincidentally, President Trump pardoned the founder of Binance, who had pleaded guilty to failing to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. Trump has also provided an array of foreign policy favors to the UAE, including giving the UAE a special exemption from U.S. export controls and approving the sales of advanced AI chips to UAE companies despite repeated warnings from our own national security officials that the technology could be diverted to China. So now, with Trump's Federal bank charter, we could just see more of the same thing.

Even setting aside the clear conflict of interest and the corruption, World Liberty's charter application would have been flatly denied under any previous administration, Republican or Democrat, due to its national security risks, anti-money laundering vulnerabilities, and lack of competent management.

So consider this: A foreign intelligence official backed a minority investment in the entity behind Trump's bank. Companies affiliated with the bank—Trump's bank—reportedly sold millions of dollars' worth of tokens to buyers that conducted business with North Korean state-sponsored hackers, with sanctioned Russian money laundering entities, and with other illicit actors; partnered with a venture whose main project was led by individuals sanctioned by the U.S. Government; and accepted $100 million from a businessman reportedly under investigation for money laundering by the United Kingdom. That is who Trump is in bed with in order to do this banking deal.

Most of the executives in charge of Trump's bank have little or no experience in banking. The bank's founder and proposed president, Zachary Witkoff, also happens to be the son of President Trump's Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff, and he has never worked before in a senior banking role.

One of the bank's board members was the chairman and CEO of an accounting company that was subject to multiple SEC and PCAOB enforcement actions, including for ''systematic quality control failures and violations of audit standards.''

In other words, there is one person here who has some experience, and that is the person who has already been called out for systematic quality control failures and violations of audit standards.

Then there is the chief compliance officer of Trump's bank, who previously served as the chief compliance officer of a large crypto platform that blew up in 2022 called Voyager Digital. The platform faced multiple enforcement actions from State and Federal regulators for compliance failures, including luring customers to store their money on the platform by falsely claiming that the money would be FDIC insured.

So that is who Donald Trump has pulled together. But Donald Trump owns the bank, and he controls the Federal banking Agency that is responsible for approving the charter of that bank, and the application miraculously was approved.

Now it is on to Congress to step in and terminate this corrupt bank charter, and that is exactly what the Ending Presidential Corruption in Banking Act would do. The bill would prohibit Federal banking Agencies from approving various types of banking applications when the applicant is owned or controlled by a range of senior government officials. It would also require the termination of any such charters or applications that have been granted since January 20, 2025, which includes World Liberty's national bank charter.

Look, this is just common sense. It is the least that Congress could do to start unwinding President Trump's web of corruption.

Now, unfortunately, my Republican colleagues want to move in exactly the opposite direction. They seem intent on furthering President Trump's corruption. Look no further than the Senate's first order of business after the August recess. Here we are. We have been away for weeks. We come back, and what do the Republicans in the Senate put on the floor for us to work on? Is it a bill to make life more affordable for American families? No, not that. Is it a bill to end Donald Trump's dangerous war in Iran? Oh, not that. Is it a bill that would juice the value of President Trump's crypto empire and reward the crypto billionaires who have facilitated his corruption? Bing, bing, bing—that is what the Republicans put on the floor. As if the latest glaring loopholes in the ethics provision weren't enough, it doesn't even apply to Donald Trump's new bank.

So here is the deal: Instead of further enriching the President, maybe Congress should curb this corruption—just clean up a little bit here—and let's start by passing my bill, the Ending Presidential Corruption in Banking Act. Let's make sure that we do not pass a crypto bill that will let Donald Trump continue to rake in billions of dollars in crypto profits while working families across this country struggle to deal with higher prices and an economy that gets worse by the day.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5389, introduced earlier today; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the immediate consideration of S. 5389, which the Senator from Massachusetts has requested, has given her an opportunity to blast again President Trump and his family.

World Liberty Financial is not his business; it is his children's business. This body has been very reticent, for good reason, to control the economic activities of the children of Members of the Senate. This is their business, and they have very good reason to choose to go overseas to do that business—because they were debanked in the United States for political reasons. If you have a business that has accounts in American banks and you are told you have got a week to get your money out of that bank and you are going to have to make payroll, you have got a problem.

The Trump kids had a problem because, during the last administration, they were debanked. During the last administration, oil and gas companies were debanked. Firearms companies were debanked. Digital asset banks that were banking digital asset companies and were completely solvent were forced out of business. That is what happens with people who are obsessed with bank surveillance and obsessed with power—that is what they do with it—and now we are seeing it again in S. 5389.

This bill has so many technical flaws that I don't know where to start. So let's start with the word ''control.''

Does the Senator from Massachusetts use the word ''control'' to mean control under the Bank Holding Company Act or the Home Owners' Loan Act or the Change in Bank Control Act? It is not specified in the text.

Does the Senator realize that there is a massive loophole in her bill that would permit a covered person to acquire a bank through a change of control application to purchase?

The Senator from Massachusetts may also not have realized that the Federal Reserve Board is not the legal decisionmaker for master accounts under 12 U.S.C. 2488. The Federal Reserve Banks are. Many times, including in the Custodia case before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Federal Reserve Board directs an outcome to the Federal Reserve Banks, as is the case in Custodia, but the Board does not approve applications.

I would also like to remind the Senator from Massachusetts that she cheered on the Federal Reserve, the FDIC, and the OCC when they weaponized their powers and terminated the bank accounts of many law-abiding Americans—those engaged in digital asset activities, firearms, and oil and gas. It was all part of Operation Choke Point 2.0.

On the Banking Committee, we finally saw the guidance documents that were being used by the Federal Reserve through its division of bank supervision, which is overseen by the Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve. They were using guidance, saying: If directors of a bank or the president of a bank is making inappropriate political remarks, that is a reason for a little bureaucrat to get after him.

That is what happened in Canada when the truckers had their bank accounts shut down because they were picketing the capital, and people who donated to their cause had their bank accounts shut down.

This is a surveillance state in the making, and the leader of that surveillance state in the making is in this room tonight. She is the proponent of S. 5389.

This is a stain on our country. We have to rid this country of this stain wherein we surveil our own people through their bank accounts—how they spend their money—the seeing eye of the Federal Government on what you do.

This is wrong. This is un-American. This bill is un-American.

For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I just know there were some words I didn't hear in the objection. I never heard anything about the $1.4 billion in profits that Donald Trump made in his first year of crypto activities, and I never heard any words about the fact that Donald Trump now is the first person in American history to both regulate the bank and own his own bank. I didn't hear anything about that, and that is what this bill is all about.

It is about the corruption and the opportunity for Donald Trump to be able to run his own bank; to do it with partners who are, at best, shall we say, ethically compromised; and to be able to invite in whoever wants to come and leave whatever kinds of wealth behind for Donald Trump to be able to gobble up.

You know, I understand it is hard to stand up to a man like Donald Trump, but at some point, the folks in this Congress over on the Republican side are going to have to grow a backbone. The American people know corruption when they see it, and this is corruption. What Donald Trump is doing with cryptocoins and now with his own bank to be able to supercharge his crypto wealth and to do it at a time when the people who followed Donald Trump lost $4 billion in their Donald Trump investments—this is a President who is all about enriching himself and not about serving the American people.

The least we could do—the least we could do—in the U.S. Senate is say: The guy who is in charge of the regulations, who runs the whole country—he tells us how powerful he is—and the guy who can actually say to the bank regulators—and does—''back off or move forward'' should not have his own bank to enrich himself and to pump up his crypto ownings.

I get it—the Senator is here to object—but what she doesn't talk about is the Trump corruption that is on the front page of every paper that is talked about and in news stories. People see it; it is documented; and the American people, I think, are just damned sick of it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here, thinking about all the Americans who are working on manufacturing plant assembly lines, of all the Americans who are teaching our kids in school or who are patrolling our streets as police or who are working in our hospitals—all of the hard-working Americans who are just working to get by, to make ends meet, to know whether they can afford another $20 or $30 at the supermarket.

Then to think of Donald Trump's making $6 million per day last year—a total of $2.2 billion just in the first year of his Presidency—I don't think there is a single person in America who thinks that he earned that money. And how could he? He is supposed to be devoting every waking moment to the public interest of the United States—to keeping us safe and our Nation secure.

The fact is that it was the result of corruption as $1.4 billion of it came from crypto. The point of this legislation is, essentially, to end that corruption. We will vote tomorrow on a crypto bill that is, sadly and tragically, riddled with loopholes that enable him to continue this same self-dealing and self-enrichment.

The failure to stand up to the President, I think, is going to be on our Republican colleagues because this amendment—ethics requirements for digital assets—is a sham; it is a charade. If nothing else, Republicans should take a stand and say: In crypto legislation that is supposed to stop wrongdoing, lawlessness, and the funding of terrorist organizations and money laundering, now is the time to also impose a strong conflict-of-interest rule—the Ending Presidential Corruption in Banking Act.

Think of it for a moment, the Ending Presidential Corruption in Banking Act, it bans the President and the Vice President and their immediate families from owning or controlling banks.

When I came to the U.S. Senate, if you had told me I would be supporting an Ending Presidential Corruption in Banking Act because it would be necessary to stop corruption and because the President would be twisting and ignoring and bending norms and precedents of the Presidency, I would have said: That would never happen in the United States of America.

But President Trump has been clear: There is no ethical line separating his role as President from his family's businesses. It is that simple.

Corruption has become the family business.

After President Trump issued an Executive order to assert control over the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, his control over that body—which approves bank charters—surprise, Trump's crypto company, World Liberty Financial, applied for a bank charter.

And, no surprise, on August 14, 2026, World Liberty Financial was granted conditional approval for a national bank charter.

Corruption has consequences. It has costs. That bank charter is worth millions—maybe hundreds of millions—to World Liberty Financial, but it will enable World Liberty Financial to exploit and take advantage of consumers that will cost them money out of those hard-earned wages that they make.

In fact, Donald Trump made $1.4 billion, including 636 million from his meme coin, but nearly a million Americans lost billions of dollars—more than $3 billion—while he was making his huge profits.

Corruption has consequences. It has costs. When the President of the United States is dealing with the Emiratis, who have bought a 49-percent share for billions of dollars in one of his enterprises, and then the Emiratis receive approval for the purchase of chips that have been refused them or defense equipment that is hugely valuable to them, it threatens our national security.

And when the President's son or his family go around the world establishing resorts, making deals, there is always a quid pro quo. There is always a quid to the quo. There is no free lunch. Our security is compromised. There are costs to our taxpayers.

And that plane that was supposedly a gift is already costing us hundreds of millions of dollars, not to mention our being beholden to the Qatar Government. There is no free lunch.

After Donald Trump, Jr., became a partner of the venture capital firm 1789 Capital, its assets ballooned to $3 billion as its portfolio companies rapidly received lucrative government contracts.

Those government contracts impact the taxpayers when they are sole source, when they are granted without proper review and scrutiny and oversight of what the costs will be to taxpayers. There is no free lunch.

So this measure is not only important, it is necessary. And I have to say, the consequences of corruption are measured not only in dollars and cents but also in our moral standing around the world.

Just this morning, ProPublica reported that Donald Trump, Jr.'s, lavish wedding in the Caribbean was, in effect, heavily bankrolled by a Russian oligarch with close ties to Putin. His name is Umar Kremlev.

Umar Kremlev is also involved in an organization that reeducates Ukrainian children who have been abducted.

I have been to Ukraine 11 times. On a number of those trips, I have met with children who have been abducted and kidnapped by Vladimir Putin. It is the reason he has been judged and charged as a war criminal. And one of his henchmen, apparently, is Umar Kremlev in reeducating those children so that they will forget their past, forget their language, forget their culture, forget their religion.

This is truly criminal. And Kremlev has paid likely hundreds of thousands of dollars for Donald Junior's lavish wedding. He is in a photograph of the wedding party.

That picture haunts me. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. And the picture of a man who has, in effect, been complicit in abducting and reeducating children, separating them—and not just a few but literally tens of thousands, as many as 35,000, maybe 50,000 or more—separating them from their families. I wouldn't want to be caught on the same island with him, let alone having him rent the island for a wedding of a family member.

Let me put it another way: Those Americans who are working hard to make ends meet, wondering whether they can afford another $20 or $30 at the supermarket while Donald Trump averaged $6 million a day in 2025, ought to demand of all of us that we pass the Ending Presidential Corruption in Banking Act.

It is the least we can do. It is a first step. And I hope that we will also pass a crypto measure that is worthy of this body and its name.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, briefly, in response to the gentleman who just spoke, the digital asset bill we are voting on tomorrow, the Clarity Act, gives the Democrats exactly what they asked for on an ethics deal. It requires the President to divest or use a blind trust, disclosure of sales, a ban on promoting your own coin, and State AG enforcement power.

Take the win.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude my remarks. We will talk Clarity tomorrow, and I would like to move into closing the Senate for today and making announcements about tomorrow's schedule.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LUMMIS. 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.

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

REMEMBERING RAY GAESSER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a friend and longtime supporter, who was a lifelong champion for the family farmer and highly respected leader for innovation and conservation that he put into practice on his own family farm in southwest Iowa. Today would have been his 74th birthday.

On Saturday, September 5, Ray Gaesser passed away unexpectedly after a farming accident, a heartbreaking loss to his beloved family and a big loss to the farming community.

Like many farmers across Iowa, Ray never stopped working. He started farming as a teenager alongside his dad in southern Indiana. When he married his wife Elaine, they began Gaesser Farms on a few hundred acres near Corning, the county seat of Adams County. With more than 50 years of farming under his belt, his farming operation eventually expanded to thousands of acres that he worked with Elaine and their son Chris.

A lifelong steward of the soil, Ray practiced what he preached. Conservation was central to his farming operation, and he was a tireless pioneer for sustainability, clean energy, and water quality. Decades ago, he implemented terraces, grass waterways, turn areas, 100-percent no-till planting, and cover crops to conserve the land and strengthen Earth's natural resources.

Ray was widely respected in his southwest Iowa farming community. To be sure, his voice and advocacy on behalf of American agriculture carried near and far, from podcasts to the policymaking table around the world and in Washington, DC.

Throughout his 73 years, Ray burned the midnight oil on the tractor seat and extracted every minute out of the day. He traveled around the globe, sharing stories with farmers about feeding the world, participating at UN Climate meetings, and testifying before Congress on Capitol Hill. A dedicated member of the Iowa Soybean Association, serving as its president from 2006 to 2007, Ray went on to serve as president of the American Soybean Association from 2013 to 2014. His resume reflects his commitment to conservation and forging consensus to address challenges facing the future of farming. Among his many hats, Ray held leadership positions on the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, the Iowa Economic Development Agriculture Advisory Board, the Iowa Conservative Energy Forum, the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance, and the International Soybean Growers Alliance. He served as cochair of the Iowa Conservation Infrastructure Initiative and was named Iowa Master Farmer in 2012 and American Soybean Distinguished Leader in 2018.

In 2014, Ray cofound Solutions from the Land and was a tireless crusader for renewable energy, including biomass, wind, solar, and hydropower. Ray understood that proper stewardship of God's natural resources can produce bountiful rewards for the Nation's food and energy security. Just like he never punted on hard work on the farm, he rolled up his sleeves to making things work when a solution seemed out of reach. From climate change to water quality and carbon sequestration, Ray didn't avoid political hot potatoes. He immersed himself and brought stakeholders together on transcendent issues of our time: feeding the world, conserving resources, providing clean water, and producing renewable energy takes a coalition of the willing. In his words, "When we work together, we all benefit."

In 2021, Ray was nominated by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to serve on USDA's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in grains, feed, oilseeds, and planting seeds. In this role, Ray brought decades of farming experience and dirt underneath his fingernails to the ears of the Nation's top ag and trade leaders to ensure Iowa soybean farmers were heard during global trade negotiations. He served as a commissioner on the Iowa Department of Transportation since 2022.

Ray was a gifted leader and communicator. He used his talents and work ethic to share a pragmatic vision for resiliency and sustainability in agriculture. A son of the soil, Ray wanted to ensure the land could feed the world and sustain livelihoods for generations of farmers yet to come.

From my annual county meetings and policy discussions in my office in Washington, I appreciated Ray's enthusiasm and expertise. He was an impactful problem-solver who effectively leveraged levity and bone deep passion for farming that connected stakeholders and made a difference.

Ray was a faith-filled servant leader, a family man, and a farmer who was called home to the Lord. I have no doubt he will continue doing the Lord's work among the angels, but as his friend, I will miss his advocacy for the family farmer, good-natured outlook on life, and warm, welcoming smile. Barbara and I extend our condolences to his wife Elaine and his two children Chris and Jennifer.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPITOL GUIDE SERVICE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this year, we celebrate 150 years of the Capitol Guide Service. Since 1876, Capitol guides have welcomed visitors to the U.S. Capitol and shared with them the history, art, and architecture that