

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE  
CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the House message with respect to H.R. 3979, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 697, 632, 1055, 542, 637, 1051, 1057, 791, 1102; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WALSH

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to take a few moments to thank a Senator who will be leaving at the end of this term: Senator JOHN WALSH of Montana.

Though only in the Senate a brief time, Senator WALSH brought his wealth of experience to the work here and fought the good fight. Serving 33 years in the Montana Army National Guard, he brought his bravery and courage into the Senate. JOHN WALSH supported the Paycheck Fairness Act and was one of the original cosponsors of the Bring Jobs Home Act. He lived up to the values he was fighting for in the military by standing for workers here.

I thank him for his service and friendship and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY ERICKSON  
AND SHEILA DWYER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President I would like to take a moment to thank

a woman whom most Americans do not know but whose name is well-known to every employee of the United States Senate because—among other reasons—she signs our paychecks. Nancy Erickson will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session.

For the last 7 years, Nancy has served as the Secretary of the United States Senate. All told, she has worked for the Senate for 26 years.

For those who may not know, the Secretary of the Senate is this body's top appointed position. It is like being CEO of a large corporation. The Secretary oversees two dozen departments—from payroll and printing to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Nancy Erickson is the 32nd person—and the sixth woman—to hold that position. Nancy is a consummate professional who has won the respect of Senators on both sides of the aisle. She is unfailingly cheerful and unflappable.

Nancy Erickson loves the United States Senate even more than she loves the Green Bay Packers—and that is saying a lot. Nancy got the political bug early. As a fifth grader in Brandon, SD, she campaigned door-to-door for South Dakota Senator George McGovern in his 1972 Presidential campaign. She moved to Washington, DC, after college to work for the Government Accountability Office, which was then known as the General Accounting Office. After 2 years of desperate homesickness, she was ready to pack her bags and head back to South Dakota when she got a better offer.

A young South Dakota congressman with a bright future offered her a job as his scheduler. His name was Tom Daschle. Over the next 16 years Tom Daschle moved from serving as a House Member to Senator to Senate majority leader. Nancy moved up the ladder, too, eventually becoming Senator Daschle's deputy chief of staff. When Senator Daschle left the Senate in 2005, Senator REID immediately snapped Nancy up to serve as his representative to the Senate Sergeant at Arms. Two years later Senator REID became majority leader and asked Nancy to serve as the Secretary of the Senate. Nancy calls being Secretary of the Senate her "pinch me job."

Over the course of her 26-year Senate career, there have been traumatic moments. On the morning of September 11, 2001, Nancy was at her desk in the Capitol when Capitol Police rushed in and ordered that the building be evacuated immediately, fearful that the Capitol was under terrorist attack.

One month later Nancy was one of 28 people in the Senate who were exposed to anthrax when a letter carrying the deadly bacteria was opened in Senator Daschle's office. Experts estimated that the affected staffers were exposed to between 1,000 and 3,000 times the lethal dose of anthrax. Fortunately, with expert medical assistance, no one in the Senate was seriously injured in the anthrax attack.

To walk back into the Capitol the day after 9/11 took courage. To keep

coming back after living through a potentially deadly anthrax attack required not just courage but a true devotion to public service and a love of this Senate.

You can see Nancy's love of this Senate and its history in the exquisitely restored Old Senate Chamber, whose renovation occurred on Nancy's watch. You can see her love of the Senate in the ongoing restoration of the Capitol's magnificent Brumidi Corridors, a project that Nancy has championed.

You can see Nancy Erickson's reverence for the U.S. Senate in a massive portrait of one of the giants of Senate history, former Kentucky Senator Henry Clay. That painting, measuring 11 by 7 feet, was discovered a few years ago in a storage room in New York State. The paint was peeling, and there were holes in the canvas created when a high school had used it as a basketball backboard. Nancy spearheaded the effort to procure and restore that lost masterpiece. Today, the painting of the Senate's "Great Compromiser" hangs just off the Senate floor—a reminder to all of us of the noble art of principled compromise. We thank you, Nancy, for that reminder and for your many years of service to this Senate and to America.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge Sheila Dwyer, who has served as Assistant Secretary of the Senate since 2007. Majority Leader HARRY REID, who paid tribute to Sheila on the Senate floor yesterday, appointed her to this post. Sheila has done an outstanding job overseeing the departments within the Office of the Secretary and assisting in the day-to-day legislative, financial, and administrative operations of the Senate. Sheila never forgets the little touches, or as any Democratic Senator can tell you, the meals that make the U.S. Senate an enjoyable place to work.

Sheila first came to Washington, DC, in 1980 as a House page for Speaker Tip O'Neil. Immediately after graduating from Suffolk University in Boston, she returned to DC and was hired to work in New York Governor Mario Cuomo's Washington office. She went on to work for Senators Charles Robb and Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Sheila was responsible for logistics of not one—but two—Democratic national conventions. The first was in 1992 in New York City. Then at the 1996 convention in Chicago, I chaired the Illinois Delegation as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, and Sheila Dwyer once again kept the logistics for the event moving smoothly.

It has been an honor to work with Sheila for all these years, and I wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in her life.

To Nancy and to Sheila, thank you for sharing so much of your time and talent with this Senate. We will miss you both.