

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Leg.]
YEAS—94

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Fischer | Murray |
| Ayotte | Flake | Nelson |
| Baldwin | Franken | Paul |
| Barrasso | Gardner | Perdue |
| Bennet | Gillibrand | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Graham | Portman |
| Blunt | Grassley | Reed |
| Booker | Hatch | Reid |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Risch |
| Boxer | Heitkamp | Roberts |
| Brown | Heller | Rounds |
| Burr | Hirono | Rubio |
| Cantwell | Hoeven | Sasse |
| Capito | Inhofe | Schatz |
| Cardin | Isakson | Schumer |
| Carper | Johnson | Scott |
| Casey | Kaine | Sessions |
| Cassidy | King | Shaheen |
| Coats | Kirk | Shelby |
| Cochran | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Coons | Leahy | Tester |
| Corker | Manchin | Thune |
| Cornyn | Markey | Tillis |
| Crapo | McCain | Toomey |
| Cruz | McCaskill | Udall |
| Daines | McConnell | Vitter |
| Donnelly | Menendez | Warner |
| Durbin | Mikulski | Whitehouse |
| Enzi | Moran | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murkowski | |
| Feinstein | Murphy | |

NAYS—5

| | | |
|---------|---------|-------|
| Lee | Sanders | Wyden |
| Merkley | Warren | |

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The motion was agreed to.

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 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 conference report to accompany S. 2943, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis, Daniel Coats, James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Cory Gardner, Orrin G. Hatch, Mark Kirk, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan, John McCain.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference

report accompanying S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Leg.]
YEAS—92

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Alexander | Feinstein | Murray |
| Ayotte | Fischer | Nelson |
| Baldwin | Flake | Perdue |
| Barrasso | Franken | Peters |
| Bennet | Gardner | Portman |
| Blumenthal | Graham | Reed |
| Blunt | Grassley | Reid |
| Booker | Hatch | Risch |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Roberts |
| Boxer | Heitkamp | Rounds |
| Brown | Heller | Rubio |
| Burr | Hirono | Sasse |
| Cantwell | Hoeven | Schatz |
| Capito | Inhofe | Schumer |
| Cardin | Isakson | Scott |
| Carper | Johnson | Sessions |
| Casey | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Cassidy | King | Shelby |
| Coats | Kirk | Stabenow |
| Cochran | Klobuchar | Sullivan |
| Collins | Lankford | Tester |
| Coons | Leahy | Thune |
| Corker | Manchin | Tillis |
| Cornyn | McCain | Toomey |
| Crapo | McCaskill | Udall |
| Cruz | McConnell | Vitter |
| Daines | Menendez | Warner |
| Donnelly | Mikulski | Warren |
| Durbin | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Enzi | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murphy | |

NAYS—7

| | | |
|------------|---------|-------|
| Gillibrand | Merkley | Wyden |
| Lee | Paul | |
| Markey | Sanders | |

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 7.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany S. 2943, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators who wish to speak in honor of the Presiding Officer be recognized in the following order for up to 4 minutes each: me, the majority leader Senator MCCONNELL, the minority leader Senator REID, Senator SCHUMER, Senator HATCH, Senator LEAHY, Senator MCCAIN, Senator DURBIN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator MURRAY, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator COLLINS, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator CARPER.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Delaware amend his request so that Senator MCCONNELL and I will use our leader time. That will not count against his hour.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTES TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President—and it does bring me some joy to call you Mr. President. I am honored to be here today with so many of our colleagues, and I am grateful to Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Leader REID for their enthusiasm in pulling together this bipartisan tribute. I am honored to be joined by my senior Senator from Delaware, TOM CARPER, who will make closing remarks this afternoon.

Before I begin, I would like to remind my colleagues that there will be a reception for the Vice President in the Mansfield Room, after we conclude here, beginning sometime after 4. We have many Senators who wish to speak so we will move quickly through the order. I encourage my colleagues to submit their remarks for the RECORD, those who are not able to speak in the next hour. Their remarks will be combined with all the other remarks given on the floor, and the resulting speeches printed, bound, and presented to the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, in a place known these days for some disagreements, my colleagues—our colleagues, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—are all here today because we agree on one powerful and simple thing: our deep gratitude for the difference you have made in your decades in public service.

The greatest honor of my life is to serve in the seat that you held for 36 years—and not just literally this seat in the Senate but also a seat on the 7:15 Amtrak train down from Wilmington