

be in Iowa, I know Governor Branstad will throw himself into this job wholeheartedly.

Governor Branstad is uniquely qualified to help strengthen the trade, economic, cultural, and geopolitical relationships between our two countries. I am pleased that he has now been called to serve our entire Nation, not just the State of Iowa, as Ambassador to China. I have every confidence that he will represent the United States well and will excel, just as he has throughout his entire public career.

Without reservation, then, I support this nomination. I also urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this nomination.

Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Branstad nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea”, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) would have voted “yea”, and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Barrasso	Enzi	Manchin
Bennet	Ernst	McCain
Blunt	Feinstein	McCaskill
Boozman	Fischer	McConnell
Burr	Flake	Menendez
Cantwell	Franken	Merkley
Capito	Gardner	Moran
Cardin	Graham	Murphy
Carper	Grassley	Murray
Casey	Hassan	Nelson
Cassidy	Hatch	Paul
Cochran	Heinrich	Perdue
Collins	Heitkamp	Portman
Coons	Heller	Reed
Corker	Hoeven	Risch
Cornyn	Inhofe	Roberts
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Rounds
Cotton	Kaine	Rubio
Crapo	Kennedy	Sasse
Cruz	King	Schatz
Daines	Klobuchar	Scott
Donnelly	Lankford	Shaheen
Durbin	Leahy	Shelby

Strange	Toomey	Wicker
Sullivan	Udall	Wyden
Tester	Van Hollen	Young
Thune	Warner	
Tillis	Whitehouse	

NAYS—13

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Stabenow
Booker	Markey	Warren
Brown	Peters	
Duckworth	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Isakson	Murkowski
Harris	Lee	

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 action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 59, Amul Thapar to be United States circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Amul R. Thapar, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 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 Amul R. Thapar, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Roger F. Wicker, Jeff Flake, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, John Hoeven, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Deb Fischer, Mike Crapo, Jerry Moran, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, Steve Daines, David Perdue.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DENNIS H. HOLTSCHNEIDER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to thank Reverend Dennis H. Holtschneider for all he has done to bring educational excellence to our State.

After nearly 13 years as president of DePaul University, the largest Catholic university in the country, Father Holtschneider will be retiring later this summer. He originally planned on stepping down in 2019 at the end of his contract, but always putting DePaul first, he decided that wouldn't fit with the university's planning cycle. After leading the university through two successful strategic plans, he said, “It's best for DePaul if I step aside in the summer of 2017 so that a new leader can assist the institution to name and ambitiously pursue its next set of strategic objectives.” What a class act. It is no surprise, for more than a decade, Reverend Holtschneider has put DePaul University first.

During Father Holtschneider's tenure, U.S. News and World Report recognized DePaul University as among the country's “Most Innovative Universities.” While many colleges and universities shift their missions over the years, Reverend Holtschneider has always remained committed to DePaul University's founding principles—a devotion to first generation students. He has raised about \$460 million in philanthropic support for this noble cause, including \$333 million for the “Many Dreams, One Mission” campaign to ensure access to high quality education for future generations of DePaul students.

Born in Detroit, Father Holtschneider graduated from Niagara University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, studied for the priesthood at Mary Immaculate Seminary, and also received a doctorate in higher education administration from Harvard University. Prior to joining DePaul University, Father Holtschneider served as executive vice president and chief operating officer of his alma mater, Niagara University. He also was the director and rector of Vincentian College Seminary and has been a faculty member in the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Since 2014, Father Holtschneider has chaired the board of Ascension, the Nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system, but will be stepping down to become executive vice president and chief operating officer later this summer.