

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 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 nomination of James C. Ho, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Michael B. Enzi, Johnny Isakson, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, Ron Johnson, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Cory Gardner, James E. Risch, Jeff Flake.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions 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 proceed to legislative session for 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 DONALD HARLAN HANSEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate, recognize, and acknowledge the longtime public service that Donald Harlan Hansen has provided to the State of Utah.

This month, Donald Hansen will officially retire as the civil litigation chief for the Salt Lake County district attorney. He has worked for the district attorney since 2001, where he served as lead counsel in jury and bench trials before State and Federal courts and countless administrative proceedings.

Prior to his work with the Salt Lake County district attorney, he worked for the Utah Attorney General, in which capacity he served as litigation counsel for critical legal cases throughout the State. Utah-born and bred, Donald graduated from the University of Utah before obtaining his law degree from the S.J. Quinney College of Law.

Donald has been published in many legal proceedings and is admitted to practice law before the Utah Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, the Oregon Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Donald currently lives in the Mill Creek area of Salt Lake and is the father of four children and the grandfather of 12. He is a dedicated public servant, and I wish him the very best in his retirement.

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor the 2,403 Americans who lost their lives when Japanese naval forces launched a surprise attack on our Nation at Pearl Harbor, HI, 76 years ago. Today we remember the millions of Allied Forces who fearlessly and selflessly gave their lives to defeat fascism and defend our freedoms and way of life. We will never forget the sacrifices that were made during World War II, and the memory of the attack on Pearl Harbor inspires us to remain forever vigilant.

Just a few days ago, the Associated Press, AP, reported that the Department of Defense's POW/MIA Accounting Agency has identified 100 sailors and marines killed when the USS Oklahoma capsized during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Officials exhumed the bodies from a cemetery in Hawaii "after determining that advances in forensic science and genealogical help from families made it possible to identify the men." These marines and sailors have been classified as missing since World War II.

According to the AP, agency officials think they will be able to identify about 80 percent of the battleship's missing crewmembers by 2020. I imagine this is of great comfort to the families of those who were lost, many of whom may now be buried in their hometowns. This effort is yet another example of our obligations to those who have given "the last full measure of devotion" that this Nation and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth, as Abraham Lincoln so eloquently and poignantly put it at Gettysburg, PA.

We must be ready to counter threats to our Nation, both at home and abroad, that endanger the American people and our values. In President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's historic "Day of Infamy" speech, he pledged to "... make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us." Our Nation must remain strong and vigilant, prepared to meet future challenges, particularly in the fight against those who wish us harm.

America's Greatest Generation was forged from the sacrifices required in the crucible of World War II. On this

day, as we pause to remember and honor those sacrifices, we remind ourselves and the world that "American values" still stands for freedom and a determination to use our unmatched strength to defend those who are unable to defend themselves. On this anniversary, we also take time to honor the brave men and women who currently serve in our military and their families. We pray for their safe return as they continue to serve in harm's way.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JUNE RYCHALSKI

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing June Rychalski for her service with the Montana Department of Military Affairs. She has served Montana with grace, diligence, a positive attitude, and genuine care for the people of the Treasure State.

During her 35 years of service, June has been secretary to the senior Army adviser, administrative assistant to the adjutant general and next month will complete her career with the Montana Veterans Affairs Division. June demonstrated compassion and professionalism on a daily basis. Her ability to help a grieving family member navigate the challenges of veteran burial honors or steer a distressed veteran in the right direction to attain benefits is highly commendable. Her presence in the in the Montana Department of Military Affairs will be missed, but the mentorship she provided agency personnel over the years will ensure that her legacy endures. To her coworkers, June was regarded as their greatest advocate.

When June retires, she plans to do what she has always done, continue to take good care of others. At age 83, June's example is inspiring. Her work ethic, compassion, and commitment to excellence represent the best of Montana values. Thank you, June, for your service. I wish you the best in retirement and appreciate all you have done for our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVE COURVOISIER

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Mr. Dave Courvoisier on his retirement from KLAS news station in Las Vegas. I am honored to recognize his dedication to reporting to the citizens of southern Nevada for 32 years, as well as his commitment to the communities he has served throughout his career.

A native midwesterner, Dave received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois. He began his career at KCCC Radio in Carlsbad, NM, and then carried his talents to Grand Junction, CO, where he jumpstarted his television career at KJCT. Dave worked for various news outlets in Indiana, Missouri, and North

Carolina before settling in Las Vegas with his wife in 1985.

Mr. Courvoisier quickly established himself as a tactful and passionate reporter for KVBC in Las Vegas. His numerous reports related to the issues of disadvantaged children yielded both national and local awards. In particular, Mr. Courvoisier is well-known for his involvement with Wednesday's Child, an adoption program, and he distinguished himself with his news feature series focused on helping foster children find permanent homes. His commitment to this issue is also reflected in his personal life; he established a new chapter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

While Dave has led an incredibly successful reporting career, he believes his most important work to be raising his three daughters with his wife. As Nevada's senior Senator, I want to thank Mr. Courvoisier for his dedication to keeping the people of southern Nevada informed. I offer him the very best in his retirement and my well wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTER STRONG

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Walter Strong on the occasion of his retirement. Walt has led the University of Oklahoma's Max Westheimer Airport, OUN, for 19 years and has a lifelong dedication to the aviation community. Under his leadership, the Max Westheimer Airport has demonstrated it is one of the best flight schools in the Nation, organizes successful pilot fly-ins, and maintains a youth outreach program to encourage the next generation to get involved in flying.

Mr. Strong began his career in aviation in the U.S. Air Force, working as an air traffic controller in both control tower and radar approach control facilities. Retiring after 20 years of service in the Air Force, Mr. Strong began working at the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, rising to the level of deputy director. He was one of Oklahoma's first airport inspectors. From 2004 to 2005, he served as the president of the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association. A pillar of the Oklahoma aviation community, Mr. Strong was awarded the "Airport Manager of the Year" in 2011, the same year that Max Westheimer Airport was recognized as "Airport of the Year." In 2016, under his leadership, the Max Westheimer Airport received the Willie F. Card Contract Tower Service Award from the Federal Aviation Administration, which recognizes one tower each year for embodying Willie Card's vision of a tower that places profound emphasis on both safety and efficiency.

At the Federal level, Mr. Strong has been a passionate advocate for aviation, serving on the board of the American Association of Airport Executives and as the chair of the U.S. Contract Tower Association and ensuring that

all Members of Congress are aware of the importance of general aviation to their constituents and to their communities.

I know that I join his family, the Max Westheimer Airport, and the University of Oklahoma community in thanking him for his years of service and contributions to the aviation community. Congratulations on your retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO DORA SPAULDING

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor an exceptional Vermonter, Dora Spaulding, who this year is celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to the students at the Marion Cross Elementary School in Norwich, VT.

Ms. Spaulding has been the administrative assistant at the Marion Cross School for the past 10 years and was secretary to the principal for 40 years prior to that. Her story is all the more impressive when one considers that Dora Spaulding attended Marion Cross School herself, from first to eighth grade. It is hard to imagine today, but Dora was the only girl in her entire first-grade class.

As the school's administrative assistant, Ms. Spaulding is responsible for the payroll, purchasing, bus transport arrangements, facility rental schedule, and other administrative tasks for the school, but more than that, she is, in many ways, the face of the school. In fact, several members of my staff grew up in Norwich and attended the Marion Cross School and speak highly of her many contributions to the students, school, and the community.

Dora Spaulding embodies the spirit of dedicated public service. I applaud her for helping to steward countless young people over the past 50 years and for her tremendous commitment to education and community.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1266. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 38. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a means by which nonresidents of a State whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the State.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 90. Concurrent resolution condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya

and calling for an end to the violence in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1266. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 5:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 123. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 38. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a means by which nonresidents of a State whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 90. Concurrent resolution condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the violence in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2199. A bill to authorize appropriations for border infrastructure construction, to provide conditional resident status to certain aliens, and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to include grounds of inadmissibility and deportability for alien members of criminal gangs and cartels, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1164. An act to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3643. A communication from the Acting Director of Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled