

of people across the country who work in the retail shops that sell them and who work in the places hand-rolling and making them.

This is wrong, and we should do everything we can to stop it from happening. I hope we will deal with this issue in conference. I am glad it is in the House version. I wish we could get it in the Senate version. We are going to fight to include it in the final version. We are not going to watch as J.C. Newman and small businesses like it are put out of business by a rule that was never supposed to apply to them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1006.

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 assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt.

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.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for Senate amendment No. 3399.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 Senate amendment No. 3399 to H.R. 6147, an act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for H.R. 6147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 H.R. 6147, an act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran.

THE AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received a message from the House to accompany S. 1182.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1182.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1182) entitled "An Act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.", do pass with amendments.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendments to S. 1182.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 motion to concur in the House amendments to S. 1182, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, John Kennedy, Bill Cassidy, Marco Rubio, Jerry Moran, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Richard Burr, Richard C. Shelby.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3628

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to the text of S. 1182, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 1182, with an amendment numbered 3628.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3629 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3628

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 3629 to amendment No. 3628.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days"

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3630

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to refer the House message on S. 1182 to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs with instructions to report back forthwith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to refer the House message on S. 1182 to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs to report back forthwith with instructions, being amendment numbered 3630.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3631

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 3631 to the instructions of the motion to refer S. 1182 to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days"

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3632 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3631

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 3632 to amendment No. 3631.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "4" and insert "5"

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 5515.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 5515, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes on the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5515), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 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, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of July 25, 2018.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the conference report.

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 conference report to accompany H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 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.

James M. Inhofe, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the next vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday on cloture on the Grant nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

A FREE PRESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the importance of a free press and its role since the founding of our Nation in protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.

I was on the Senate floor on July 12 talking about a recent tragedy—a mass shooting at the Annapolis-based Capital Gazette. A man who had a long-standing grudge against the newspaper for accurately reporting news about

him shot his way into the newsroom and killed five good people. These five men and women died doing their jobs—reporting the news and supporting a publication that is an important part of their community.

One victim in particular, Wendi Winters, fought back and worked to distract the gunman in such a way that those who bore witness to her bravery described her actions in this way:

Wendi died protecting her friends, but also in defense of her newsroom from a murderous assault. Wendi died protecting the freedom of the press.

Wendi died protecting the freedom of the press.

We think of violence against reporters as something that happens in other countries, in war zones and the like, but not here in the United States of America. All around the world, reporters work to gather facts, ask questions, and report the news in the spirit of the free, open, and transparent societies and governments that all people deserve. Too often, reporters are harassed, jailed, and even killed simply because of the nature of their work, which often exposes cronyism and corruption.

From this floor, I have stood in solidarity with the Reuter's reporters who were detained in Burma for shining a light on the horrific abuses that occurred in the Rakhine State.

I have stood in solidarity with the Ethiopian journalists and bloggers who are routinely arrested for criticizing the Ethiopian Government and exposing human rights abuses in that country.

I have talked frequently about China—a country that engages in routine censorship and online blocking, harassment, reprisals, detention of journalists, and visa delays or denials for journalists.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists—an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide—more than 600 journalists and media workers have been killed in the last 10 years while doing their jobs.

Of the member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Russia remains the deadliest country for journalists. Investigative journalist Maksim Borodin, who died in April, was the latest Russian reporter to be silenced by death.

Turkey is the largest jailer of journalists in the world, and scores of media outlets have been closed since the attempted coup there. The heavy-handed measures used against media freedom in Turkey both before and during recent elections illustrate the lengths to which the government went to control the information available to voters. They also serve as a reminder of the essential role of a pluralistic media for free and fair elections.

In May, a Helsinki Commission briefing on the murder of investigative journalists examined the unsolved murders of Daphne Caruana Galizia and Jan Kuciak.