

and worthy. That was a precious time to share my tiny, tiny experience in the air with Senator John McCain.

So, again, I just wanted to share with everyone, with my colleagues, with my constituents the fact that I value the time that I spent in the U.S. Senate with Senator McCain. He taught us all a lot about love of country, duty, honor, commitment, service, leadership, patriotism, forgiveness, and how to love your brother and your sister, regardless of who you are and where you come from. I will treasure that time; I will treasure the man.

To his family—they have my deepest sympathies in the loss of their husband, their father, their brother, their son, their uncle. I think we will all feel the hurt of the loss for a long time. His spirit will live on with us in this Chamber.

Every time I walk into an Armed Services Committee meeting, I will always think of John McCain and how he strove to be a great leader for all of us, the mentorship that he provided.

John, I know you are with us, and it is my turn to say thank you for everything that you have done for your great State of Arizona, for all of us who have served in the U.S. Senate, and of course for these great United States of America. We honor you, John; we thank you. God bless you. Thanks so much, John.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Judiciary Committee has begun the hearing to consider Judge Brett Kavanaugh for confirmation as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. One of the distinguished professionals asked to introduce Judge Kavanaugh is Lisa Blatt, a prominent and accomplished Supreme Court litigator. She also happens to be a self-described “liberal Democrat and feminist.”

Nevertheless, in a recent op-ed, Ms. Blatt laid out the case for why Democrats should support Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination. Just last week, she spearheaded a letter that 41 veteran appellate advocates wrote to the committee. They said: “Based on our experience with Judge Kavanaugh and his work over 12 years of distin-

guished judicial service, we are confident that he possesses the character, temperament and intellect that will make him an asset for our Nation’s highest Court.”

Our colleagues on the committee also received a letter from Bob Bennett. Like Ms. Blatt, he is also a Democrat and, in fact, he served as a personal lawyer to one of America’s most prominent Democrats, President Bill Clinton, during a particularly acrimonious time in recent history. Yet Mr. Bennett concluded, in a letter to our colleagues, that Judge Kavanaugh is “the most qualified person any Republican President could possibly have nominated.”

He went on to say: “Were the Senate to fail to confirm Brett, it would not only mean passing up the opportunity to confirm a great jurist, but it would also undermine civility in politics.”

Those familiar with Judge Kavanaugh’s judicial record and temperament come away impressed. So has the American Bar Association, an organization our Democratic friends have called “the gold standard” in evaluating judicial nominees. They deemed Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be unanimously “well qualified.” That is the highest possible rating they can give, unanimously “well qualified.”

Many of our Democratic colleagues have been determined to oppose Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination, no matter what, since the day he was nominated. Some of our Democratic colleagues opposed him and anyone else before he was nominated, but they are running out of options. They can’t find any substantive reasons why he doesn’t deserve confirmation.

That explains the hyperventilation and orchestrated antics at this morning’s hearing, where they talked about almost anything besides his distinguished record. Our colleagues keep falling back on the same process complaints that have failed to persuade anyone for weeks and weeks.

So let’s review the facts.

The Judiciary Committee has received half a million pages of materials with respect to this nomination. This is by far—by far—the most materials provided in support of a Supreme Court nomination in our Nation’s entire history. In fact, it is more material than was produced for the last five Supreme Court nominations combined.

Of course, this record-shattering tower of executive branch documents is all in addition to Judge Kavanaugh’s 12-plus-year record on the DC Court of Appeals—obviously, the most relevant part of his record. Again, that judicial record was something our Democratic friends said was the best way to evaluate a judge, back when it was a Supreme Court nominee of a Democratic President whom the Senate was considering.

Judge Kavanaugh has issued over 300 opinions from what the legal community widely considers the second highest bench in the country. By any objec-

tive standard, by any fair metric, any Senator who is willing to give Judge Kavanaugh full and fair consideration is more than amply prepared to do so, but, of course, many of our Democratic colleagues haven’t been interested in doing that.

As I said, many Senate Democrats made up their minds instantly upon Judge Kavanaugh’s nomination that they would oppose him no matter what—no matter what his qualifications, no matter how many opinions are in the public record or how many pages of documents are provided. Many Senate Democrats were never going to give this nominee a fair hearing. There could be 1 million pages of documents or 5 million or 10 million, for that matter. Nothing will change the fact that one Democrat who serves on the committee declared she would oppose any nominee—any nominee—before Judge Kavanaugh was even announced. Nothing will change the fact that the very same night he was announced, two more Democrats on the Judiciary Committee publicly announced they finished their consideration and will vote against him. Nothing will change the fact that the very next morning, the Democratic leader stood up and said: “I will oppose him with everything I’ve got,” and more and more Democrats have followed suit.

Our colleagues will have the opportunity to thoroughly examine this nominee during this week’s hearings, and afterward he will receive a vote on the floor. No amount of partisan opposition or political theater will stop the Senate from doing its job.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Elad L. Roisman, of Maine, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2023.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.