

well-deserved honors. Mr. Burress had never received those medals due to a paperwork error. Because of Seth's work, we were finally able to present this Ohio veteran with the honors he had earned for serving our country.

There are so many stories like that one of American heroes finally receiving the honors and the Federal benefits they have earned. So many of those stories are because of Seth's hard work.

Seth Pringle does so much for the people of Ohio, and at the end of the week, when others might look forward to a relaxing weekend with friends and family, Seth often is headed out for drill with his unit.

Now Seth's unit is deploying. While we will miss his expertise, his dedication, and his unique perspective in the office this year, we are so grateful for his service to our country.

On behalf of everyone in my office and on behalf of Ohio's 12 million citizens, we wish Seth Pringle well in his tour overseas—and all of his unit, of course. We thank him for his sacrifice and his service.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING DAVID MILES KNIGHT AND BERNER RICHARD JOHNSON III

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have two bits of sad news about long-time Senate employees.

David Miles Knight, a beloved barber in our barbershop and one of the Senate's master barbers for the last 36 years, lost a lengthy battle with cancer.

His most noticeable and notable trait was kindness—not just friendliness but actual kindness—and a generosity of spirit. He was always eager to ask about a customer's day or a colleague's weekend and was just as eager to regale those folks with stories about his family—of Joanne, his wife; of his three sons; of his eight grandchildren; and of his two great-grandchildren. Dave's life was filled with these people—his friends and his family.

I offer my prayers to them now—to Dave's family, his friends, and his Senate family. He was considered a member of the Senate family and had been here for decades. He was beloved. We miss him.

Berner Richard Johnson III, a staff member for 30 years, known to all here

as "Bud," also passed away last night. He was a victim of a violent crime last week in DC and recently succumbed to the injuries this crime involved.

Bud was beloved by his Senate family, the softball team he coached, and his many friends and family. I offer my prayers for Diane, his partner; for Bo, his son; and for all who loved him and who will miss him.

May the memory of these two men be a blessing to their loved ones and a reminder to all of us that life is fleeting and to hold tight to those we love.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on disaster relief, millions of Americans have waited long enough for their government to provide relief in the wake of recent natural disasters. We have 1 week left in this work period. This is crunch time. It will be an awful conclusion to this work period if we leave without passing a relief package. We must focus on concluding our negotiations and reaching consensus on our final legislation.

That is why I am alarmed by rumors that the Republican majority may attach a simple extension of the Violence Against Women Act to the disaster bill rather than to the new reform bill that was passed by a huge bipartisan majority in the House. That is a formula for deadlock when we pass it here and send it to the House, but they will not vote for it.

Why do we have to load up the disaster bill with extraneous provisions, especially those that might bring conflict?

We must be very careful not to allow this and other extraneous provisions to get on the bill that have opposition from Members. It would only imperil the success of bipartisan disaster relief. We have come to a conclusion on Puerto Rico, and I am glad our Republican friends have finally seen the light and have not treated Puerto Rico unfairly so that we can move forward with all disaster relief.

The President sent over a proposal on the border, and we have sent back a counter proposal with many of the things—but not all—that he included. Some are objectionable. That is extraneous, but we might be able to come to an agreement on that.

These other extraneous provisions? Our Republican leader has said that he wants to get this done Thursday. Well, a surefire way of not doing it is jamming the House, filling it up with provisions that would not pass the House.

So let's all roll up our sleeves, get to work, refrain from our desires to put other things on this must-pass bill, and get disaster relief done. We Democrats will work in good faith to resolve all the remaining issues. But before the week is out, let's get a bill we can vote on. Let's deliver relief to disaster-stricken Americans and put an end to what has been a needlessly partisan episode.

#### WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on women's health and a woman's right to choose and the judges we are appointing, the past week marked a low point for our country on the issue of women's reproductive rights.

While an overwhelming majority of Americans want to keep *Roe v. Wade*, a total of 30 States have now sought to restrict the rights of women to make their own healthcare decisions, and some would either directly or virtually undo the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Alabama's Republicans have passed the most extreme example—that is the one I was talking about—but Republicans in Missouri and Texas are not far behind. And this is not merely a few fringe politicians making a statement way out of the mainstream; this is a systematic effort by Republicans in State legislatures to restrict women's reproductive rights and ultimately overturn *Roe v. Wade*, even though the vast majority of Americans don't want that to happen.

Meanwhile, here in the Senate, Leader MCCONNELL has lined up a conveyor belt of far-right judges who have reprehensible records on women's rights.

Last week, the Republican majority considered a judge, Kenneth Lee of California. Here is what he said about sexism. He said it is "irrelevant pouting." Tell that to women who have been discriminated against in so many different ways that we read about. How about Ms. Wendy Vitter? All of our Republican friends voted to put this woman on the bench. She once promoted the idea that contraceptives cause cancer and claimed that Planned Parenthood kills 150,000 women a year. Both were confirmed to lifetime appointments. It is incredible. These are people way on the extreme—way on the extreme.

And here comes another one. The Senate is voting on yet another judge with a horrendous record on women's rights—Mr. Daniel Collins, nominated to the Ninth Circuit over the objection of both of his home State Senators. He has defended the rights of pregnancy clinics to withhold from their patients that they don't provide abortion services and filed an amicus brief in support of the Hobby Lobby's petition to deny its female employees contraceptive care. He is a longtime donor and member of the Federalist Society, and he has ensconced himself in one of the most anti-choice organizations in the entire country. Let's make no mistake about it—to read some of the articles about the Federalist Society, it was formed with the goal of curtailing women's rights. Many of its advocates believe that *Roe v. Wade* should be repealed.

Let me just call out my friends on the Republican side. When the Alabama law came about, the vast majority of my friends on the other side stayed silent about the extreme anti-abortion measure in Alabama and some of the other States, and then some