

and walks away when other nations are at the table wanting to pursue peaceful diplomacy. And, second, if we are to be in a war, I would hope that this body would jealously guard that prerogative and want to have that debate here on the floor.

There are members of this body that feel very differently about what I have just stated and the points that I have made, and we ought to have that debate here on the floor, not in dueling press conferences or dueling appearances on cable shows. We should be having that debate here on the floor.

So, as I conclude, I pray that the escalation of tensions that we have seen, the discussions of deploying 120,000 troops in the Middle East, may be abating a bit. I pray that we will ask tough questions. We have our briefing tomorrow at the all-Senate briefing on this important matter.

I hope that as we enter into a discussion, in the Armed Services Committee first and then on the floor of the body, about the National Defense Authorization Act, that this would be a perfect opportunity for us to kind of talk about the equities, the plusses and minuses, what is at stake, and what we might do.

I will also just say, as a last point, that we now know how to have that debate on the floor. If the President wants to start a war without us—and, make no mistake, none of the existing authorizations from 2001 or 2002 would authorize military action against Iran. Not a single person here voting to go to war against the perpetrators of the 9/11 attack intended that to be used as an authorization to wage war against the nation of Iran. If the President decides to go to war against Iran without us, we now have a vehicle—a war powers resolution vehicle that we just recently used in connection with U.S. support for the Saudi “misprosecution” of the civil war in Yemen. We now have an opportunity to force a vote. If the President gets us into hostilities that are not authorized by Congress, we have the opportunity—and, I would say, the obligation—to file a resolution that must be brought to the floor of this body, that must be debated on, and it must be voted on. We should not be at war with Iran unless this body is willing to vote on it.

If the President decides that he wants to go to war with Iran and not come to Congress, what does it say about his judgment? His judgment is that he doesn’t think Congress will support it. If he doesn’t think Congress will support it, maybe it is because it is not a good idea.

So, as I conclude, I think these are very, very challenging times. There is not a power we should guard more jealously than the power to put the men and women of our armed services into harm’s way. We should not let a President—Democrat or Republican—make that decision without us. We should not let a President—Democrat or Republican—use a series of provocations

to blunder us into it. We should not casually let a President—Democrat or Republican—tear up diplomatic deals and have the United States be the party that is walking away from a table of dialogue where we might find a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to controversies.

In the days ahead, in the NDAA process, and then, God forbid, if the President were to initiate us into some kind of a military action, through a war powers resolution of the kind that we just voted on here on the Senate floor, we will have an opportunity as a body to deal with this, and I pray that we will deal with it with the seriousness that it deserves. There is nothing, nothing more serious than this.

Maybe just the last thing I will say is this. You know my background. I started in city council, and I cast thousands of votes, just as you have, as a city councilman and mayor, as Lieutenant Governor and Governor, and now as a Member of this body. I have cast all kinds of votes. A vote on war is the most significant vote you will ever cast. I cast two votes on the war resolutions in the Foreign Relations Committee, and it was interesting casting votes on those, even though they ended up not leading to votes on the floor. There is just a feeling about the gravity of that vote and the feeling in my stomach as I was trying to decide how to vote. Even when I decided how to vote and making my mouth say the word about how I wanted to vote, it was a vote unlike anything for those two, unlike any other vote that I have ever cast.

Part of that, no doubt, is the connection that Virginians feel so closely to the military. Part of it, no doubt, is having a child in the military and knowing what a vote like that might mean to marines like my oldest son.

This is a topic that has to be the most serious thing we do, and we can’t outsource our moral responsibility about it to a President. In fact, we need to jealously guard that responsibility, and I hope we will.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	McConnell	Thune
Crapo	McSally	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Toomey
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	Young

NAYS—43

Bennet	Hassan	Murray
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Cantwell	Jones	Rosen
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Leahy	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Smith
Duckworth	Markey	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	Tester
Feinstein	Merkley	
Harris	Murphy	

Udall	Warner	Whitehouse
Van Hollen	Warren	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Johnson
Booker	Inhofe	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER JANE GERETY

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE in celebrating the tenure of Sister Jane Gerety as president of Salve Regina University. Sister Jane has served the Salve Regina University community since 1995. First, she was a member of the board of trustees, and, starting in 2009, she became its seventh president. She has been an extraordinary leader, educator, and friend. We will miss her dearly in Rhode Island as she retires and embarks upon her next venture.

Salve Regina University is a special institution. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, its original charter authorized establishing a college to “promote virtue, and piety and learning.” In 1947, after the acquisition of Ochre Hall, Salve Regina College enrolled its first class of 58 students. In doing so, it opened the gates of some of the mansions of America’s gilded age to serve a new and better purpose of expanding educational opportunities in the pursuit of wisdom and universal justice.

It comes as no surprise that Senator Pell made Salve Regina University his home away from home upon his retirement from the Senate. Senator Pell was committed to a just and harmonious world. He was a man, born of privilege, who dedicated his career in public service to expanding educational and cultural opportunities that had previously been reserved for the elite to all Americans.

Senator WHITEHOUSE and I share a keen sense of responsibility to protect and build on Senator Pell’s legacy. In Sister Jane, we had a true partner in that effort, and we are grateful for her service.

Sister Jane embodies the founding principles of Salve Regina College, now Salve Regina University. On campus, she is known as the students’ president, perhaps the highest praise for a university leader.

She has been a real presence in student life on campus. From the athletic fields to the dining halls to her office, where the doors were always open, students knew that she had their back. She was their president.

It was only fitting that the university has dedicated Wakehurst Hall, the

hub of student activities and home to the office of community service, the student government association, and the campus activities board, in her honor. It is now called Gerety Hall, a name that in Sister Jane’s reflection on her family speaks to love, fidelity, and perseverance.

Under Sister Jane’s presidency, Salve Regina University has grown, thrived, and helped address vital needs in the community. Sister Jane oversaw the expansion of academic programs, including a new doctorate program in nursing, a master of fine arts degree program in creative writing, additional experiential learning opportunities in business, ground-breaking research programs in the sciences, and a new campus in Warwick, Rhode Island to serve the academic needs of working adults in graduate and continuing education programs.

She improved the campus infrastructure, spearheading the renovation of the O’Hare academic building, creating spaces for collaborative learning, and renovating laboratories for programs in science and nursing. Sister Jane also worked to ensure that the university addressed emerging areas of need, opening a digital forensics lab and incorporating cyber education across the undergraduate curriculum.

Even more significantly, Sister Jane worked to ensure that students from all walks of life could afford a Salve Regina education. She led the campaign “Scholars and Scholarships” to reach 100 gifted, endowed funds valued at over \$15 million to support students, faculty, and research. Over the last 10 years, Salve Regina’s annual Governor’s Ball for Scholarships nearly doubled in support, raising more than \$500,000 in 2019 alone as the university’s signature event.

Sister Jane’s accomplishments at Salve Regina University are but some of her many professional and academic achievements. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in French and a doctorate in English. She is a William Butler Yeats scholar. She has been a teacher at many levels—junior high, high school, and college and an academic dean.

She had a notable career in the healthcare sector, serving as a senior administrator for St. Joseph’s Health System in Atlanta before coming to Salve Regina University. In each of these roles, Sister Jane answered her vocation to live a life of mercy. In her words and in her deeds, she promotes universal justice and works for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful. We are all better off for knowing Sister Jane.

I will miss her advice and counsel and wish her well in her next endeavors. As she told the students when she announced her retirement, “Looking forward, we all share a bit of fear for the unknown and also hope for the excitement that is to come.”

May we all follow her example and work to make what is to come harmonious, just, and merciful.

I yield to my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, it is an honor and a true pleasure to join Rhode Island’s senior Senator here on the floor today to honor the work of Salve Regina University’s seventh president, Sister Jane Gerety. Like Senator REED, I have enjoyed Sister Jane’s friendship, companionship, wise counsel, encouragement, and occasional course-correction suggestions over many years.

She will retire next month, capping a decade of service to her university, to the Newport community, and to Rhode Island. Sister Jane has accomplished remarkable things in her tenure. She established a new satellite campus in Warwick to help working Rhode Islanders take graduate and continuing education courses. She helped establish online study options, bringing the university’s many offerings directly to Rhode Island students in their homes. She launched new programs of study, including a master of fine arts and creative writing, experiential learning opportunities in a range of fields, and a doctoral program in nursing. She raised millions of dollars in funding to strengthen Salve’s endowments, supporting every facet of university life. She supervised numerous improvements to Salve Regina’s beautiful Newport campus, including a \$46 million renovation of the O’Hare Academic Building.

Sister Jane’s work has contributed much to the city of Newport and the State of Rhode Island. Newport is home to an array of legendary Gilded Age mansions and other culturally significant buildings set atop cliffs overlooking the shining Atlantic Ocean. Many of these architectural masterpieces now belong to her university and have needed significant upkeep. From the outset, Sister Jane recognized the value of Salve’s stewardship of the architectural heritage of Newport, RI. The beautifully maintained campus, replete with the newly dedicated Gerety Hall, named in honor of Sister Jane, is a gem of an asset for the city and for the State.

Sister Jane’s work has extended beyond our State’s border. Under her management, Salve strengthened its Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy. Today more than ever, the Pell Center is a fitting reflection of its namesake, Senator Claiborne Pell, for whom our democratic ideals held limitless power. The center’s academic programs, publications, and forums spread important ideas around the globe, advancing American domestic and foreign policy, cyber security, and diversity in leadership.

As impressive and praiseworthy as those professional accomplishments is the immediate personal and lasting difference Sister Jane has made in the individual lives of so many around her, including Senator REED and myself. A