

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